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DAILY DIGEST

prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

Vol. LXXII, No. 41

Section 1

March 1, 1939

RADIO WEATHER BALLOONS

Intended for use in compiling weather data to aid transatlantic commercial aviation, radio meteorograph balloons were pronounced successful yesterday after the first open ocean trial by the Coast Guard and officials of the Weather Bureau, according to an Associated Press report from Boston. A seven-foot balloon was used in the first test and it soared from a Coast Guard cutter to a height of 35,000 feet before bursting. At that point its automatic radio transmitter flashed to shipboard observers a temperature of 60 degrees below zero. Similar balloons, Coast Guard officials said, would be sent aloft daily by cutters on the international ice patrol, which is to start duty in about a month.

"DUST BOWL" SNOWFALL

A blizzard-borne snowfall ranging in depth from 6 to 17 inches anchored down yesterday the topsoil of the southwestern "dust bowl", home of the black blizzards of the drought years, says a Lamar (Colo.) report by the Associated Press. Lamar, subjected to two dust storms since an early January rain, received 17 inches of snow. Grateful farmers who had watched fall wheat grow spotty during recent dry weeks confidently planned to begin spring planting as soon as the ground soaks up the inch or more of new moisture. "This is the most snow I have seen in this country since the winter of 1918-19," said Hackett Smartt, vice president of the Colorado Farm Bureau. "It ought to settle the dust for the next month or six weeks."

NEELY BILL APPROVED

Liberalization of the civil service retirement act affecting government employees, as provided in the Neely bill, was approved yesterday for the second time by the Senate Civil Service Committee in executive session. Major provisions of the bill are: reduces the age at which an employee may retire after 30 years of service to 64, 60 and 58 years, as against the present 68, 63 and 60 years; allows 3 1-year extensions when approved by the Civil Service Commission; provides that employees retired for disability shall be kept on retirement rolls for 12 months after recovery instead of 90 days; increases employees' contribution to 4 percent of basic pay instead of 3 1/2 as at present; permits employees to deposit additional amounts of from 1 to 10 percent of their salary for the purpose of purchasing additional annuities. (Washington Post.)

Calif. Peach Organization "Latest and most far-reaching attempt to bring order and profits to all groups in the chaotic California canned peach business resulted recently in the organization of the California Fruit Factors," says Business Week (February 25). "This is an organization of cooperative grower organizations, canners and banks...The new organization proposes to buy fruit, can it, and sell the product, an idea which growers endorsed after the canners' price control flopped and heavy losses were absorbed all along the line from orchard to distributor on the 1938 pack. A stable price level is one objective of the plan...The organization will deal with growers' groups only (not with individual growers), with individual canners, lending agencies and the buyers of canned fruit. It proposes to **obtain an agreement** among all elements on a standard schedule of costs for fruit, picking, hauling, freight and packing..."

Lemon Rootstock Two workers of the University of California Citrus Experiment Station are authors of a report on lemon rootstock experiments in Calif. Citrograph (Mar.). The two varieties of lemons used, Eureka and Lisbon, came from single trees of these respective varieties. "The Eureka strain traces back to a single tree planted in 1904 near Corona," say the authors. "...This strain of Eureka was selected as suitable for the experiments because it is a true-to-type Eureka tree...It is the type of Eureka strain which has become the predominating one of this variety in California, owing in a large measure to the commendable efforts of A. D. Shamel (Bureau of Plant Industry) and his co-workers and to the Fruit Growers Supply Company..."

Book on Turkeys "Stanley J. Marsden, in charge of poultry research at the National Agricultural Research Center (Beltsville) and Dr. J. Holmes Martin, director of the Regional Poultry Research Laboratory at East Lansing, Michigan, are the authors of the newest book on turkey raising, 'Turkey Management'," says the American Poultry Journal (March). "The text is written in a straightforward practical way for turkey breeders who want to keep up to date on management methods. One of the most important chapters is that on breeding...For the first time complete instructions and diagrams are given for sexing poults and how to use artificial insemination for breeding. Other chapters are equally up to date; the whole book is well illustrated with photographs and diagrams."

Balloon Flashlights The New York Times reports a new method of determining wind velocity by balloons. "Prof. A. F. Spilhaus of New York University attaches to the balloons a piece of fuse which has flares at regular intervals. After the fuse is lighted, just as the balloon is released, the flares ignite, one after the other. Simultaneously a 180-degree camera takes pictures. The flashes are recorded as white streaks...The new method will not supplant the theodolite observations, but has its place, particularly in determining winds 500 to 1,000 feet off the ground."

Portable "Portable laying houses--houses built in sections,
Poultry to be bolted together on the farm--represent a progressive
Houses step in the advancement of the poultry industry," says
 M. C. Small, associate editor of Poultry Tribune, in the
March issue. "...Readymade sectional houses eliminate the necessity
of the farmer spending a great amount of time planning and supervising
the building of a laying house. Houses can be obtained in practically
any building material and in any size and style desired...When bolted
together, these houses are as rigid, strong and durable as the so-called
permanent type of structures. Dropping boards, perches, dropping pits
and nests can be made easily in sections which hinge to the walls..."
The article is accompanied by illustrations of readymade portable poultry
houses and also working drawings of a 20 x 40 foot house to be built
in sections and erected on the farm.

Senate, Considering bills on the calendar, passed the follow-
Feb. 27 ing: S. 884, for relief of officers for disallowances and
 charges on account of airplane travel; S. 1523, to author-
ize payment of burial expenses, etc., for U.S. employees who die while
stationed abroad; S.Res. 36, extending the time for filing a report by
the Special Committee on Taxation of Government Securities and Salaries.

The Committee on Finance reported with amendments H.R. 3790, Pub-
lic Salary Tax Act of 1939 (S.Rept. 112). The Committee on Agriculture
and Forestry reported without amendment S. 1363, to amend section 101
(c) (4) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 relating to farm
acreage allotments (S.Rept. 117).

Several Senators submitted amendments which they intend to pro-
pose to bills as follows: by Mr. Lee, to the revenue bill, to increase
tariff duty on cashew nuts; by Mr. Wiley, to S. 1032, amending the
Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act; by Mr. Danaher, to S. 685, to create
a Division of Water Pollution Control; by Mr. Bailey, to H.R. 3790, Pub-
lic Salary Tax Act of 1939.

Both Houses received the annual report of the Library of Congress
for 1938.

House, Continued debate on H.R. 4492, Treasury-Post Office
Feb. 27 Appropriation Bill for 1940.

Received a letter from the Secretary of Agriculture,
transmitting suggested amendments to the Agricultural Adjustment Act;
to Com. on Agriculture.

Received a supplemental estimate of \$6,000,000, War Department,
for flood control, Mississippi River and Tributaries (H.Doc. 181).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

False Ads Albert Lane, trading as Consumers Board of Standards,
New York, publisher of pamphlets now known as "Consumers
Bureau Reports," and formerly known as "Consumers Preference," is named
in a complaint of the Federal Trade Commission charging false advertis-
ing representations, the commission announces. (Press.)

Cucumber Southern Agriculturist (March) contains "Pickling
Pickles Cucumbers" by I. O. Schaub, Acting Director, North Carolina
in South Experiment Station, and Dr. Henry G. Knight, Chief, Bureau
 of Chemistry and Soils. They say in part: "Until a few
years ago, practically all the pickling cucumbers were produced around
the Great Lakes because it was thought that this was the ideal cucumber-
producing region due to the hot humid days and cool nights...The North
Carolina Agricultural College, in cooperation with the U.S. Department
of Agriculture, set out to find through scientific research why cucumber
pickles could not be manufactured as successfully in the South...As a
result of experience by the packers and the cooperative scientific inves-
tigations directed by M. E. Gardner, at the college, and Dr. Harry E.
Goresline, of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, some of the problems
have been solved and others are being investigated and the whole work
is expanding...Research has helped the work so much that two men attached
to the North Carolina Experiment Station, Dr. Ivan D. Jones and Dr. Otto
Veerhoff, and two in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, Dr. H. K. Veldhuis
and J. L. Etchells, are now giving their full time to research in this
rapidly expanding farm enterprise...The production of cucumbers for
pickling purposes has not reached the large commercial farm scale in
North Carolina and other Southern States that it has in the northern
cucumber belt...but the \$40 or \$50 net often derived from the production
of an acre of cucumbers not only comes during the midsummer season when
cash is short, but it is also another source of cash income to aid in
diversified farming."

Experiment "...The experiment stations are not so well known as
Stations bigger farm agencies which deal more directly with the
 public," says an editorial in the Great Falls Tribune
(February 16). "Yet their work is basic and cannot well be dispensed
with...We do not know what will be considered best land use of our prairie
soils 20 years from now. The testing period is not over. But if there
are changes to be made in our cultural practices in the meantime, they
will be based to a predominant degree on the continuing studies now
under way in crops, grasses, cultural methods, livestock practice by the
scientists in the several stations. These men do not have administrative
functions. They do not supervise the farmers' activities, or promote
policies, or organize movements. They carry on, year after year, tests
and studies on various farming problems in the honest search for the
truth. Their results are demonstrated and applied by Extension Service,
Soil Conservation Service, farmers and stockmen afterwards. But
in the plots of the stations the facts are first determined. These com-
paratively inexpensive but little known institutions are of fundamental
importance to Montana agriculture."

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Vol. LXXII, No. 42

Section 1

March 2, 1939

FERTILIZER

INVESTIGATION

The Justice Department announced yesterday it had launched an investigation of the fertilizer industry with a view to breaking up monopolistic combinations. The inquiry, the department said, is the result of complaints received over many years from farm organizations, cooperatives, fertilizer dealers and mixers, and various unorganized groups of farmers. Aside from dissolving combinations which may be maintaining excessive prices for fertilizers, one purpose of the investigation will be to remove a threat to the national defense, the department declared. Nitrate of soda, an imported Chilean fertilizer, is a strategic war material. Meanwhile, William T. Kelley, chief counsel of the Federal Trade Commission, told the President's monopoly committee that sections of the Clayton antitrust act were "susceptible of easy evasion." (Washington Post.)

RAILROAD

AID BILL

The House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee made public yesterday the draft of a bill to aid the railroads, which had been proposed by the Committee of Six named by President Roosevelt to study the carriers' problems. It carried out recommendations which already have been made public. M. W. Clement, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, was chairman of the committee. The measure would place responsibility for all regulatory provisions regarding rates, services, valuation and accounting for all modes of transportation on the Interstate Commerce Commission. A feature of the measure is the provision creating a new and independent agency to be known as the Transportation Board.

HUNTERS

INCREASE

Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the Biological Survey, told the Maryland Sportsmen's Club this week that there is a tremendous increase in the number of hunters, says a report in the Baltimore Sun. "Four years ago," he explained, "...the first year of the (duck stamp) sale brought us \$448,000...and this year, with reports from some of the duck-shooting states still missing, we already have received \$909,000 from the sale of duck stamps. I expect that when the full figures are in, there will be more than \$1,000,000 on the books from this source this year. What we've got to figure out now is how many ducks and geese we can safely allow these million or so duck hunters to kill each day this shooting season without killing off entirely the increased supply and thus lose some of the ground we have gained."

March 2, 1939

House, The House passed H. R. 4492, Treasury-Post Office
February 28 Appropriation Bill for 1940. An amendment by Mr. Pace,
 to require the Post Office Department to purchase cotton
twine instead of jute twine, was rejected by a vote of 74 to 103.

The conference report on H.R. 3743, Independent Offices Appropriation Bill for 1940, was submitted to the House. As reported from conference the item for Tennessee Valley Authority remains at the Senate figure, \$39,003,000, and the appropriation is made available for Gilbertsville Dam and Watts Bar Dam.

The Committee on Claims reported without amendment H.R. 1961, for relief of officers and employees of the U.S. from disallowances and charges on account of airplane travel (H. Rept. 104).

Mr. Thomas of New Jersey inserted in the Record a letter from him to Attorney General Murphy requesting an investigation of "the dissemination of publicity and Government propaganda".

(Prepared by Office of Budget & Finance.)

Interstate
Trade

The Washington Post in an editorial (March 1) says that Justice Frankfurter's recent opinion "struck a decisive blow at trade-strangling barriers erected by state legislatures. By affirming a lower court decision the supreme tribunal invalidated a Florida statute of 1937 which undertook to impose a tariff upon the importation of cement. This duty was camouflaged as an inspection fee. On the assumption that an inferior quality of cement was being shipped into the state, the legislature authorized the State Road Department to fix minimum standards for such material offered for sale or use in Florida. No complaint could be offered against that section of the act. But to implement the statute the legislature imposed an 'inspection fee' of 15 cents per hundred-weight upon all cement imported from foreign countries. The court found that the inspection fee amounted to 'sixty times the actual cost of inspection'. It was more than three times the duty on cement fixed by the Belgian trade agreement....Justice Frankfurter went to the heart of the matter when he concluded that 'the very purpose of the statute is to keep out foreign goods'. 'Such an assumption of national powers by a State,' he further asserted, 'has, ever since March 12, 1827....been found to be in collision with the Constitution.'... Legislatures in a considerable number of State capitals have sought devious means of encroaching upon Federal powers. Not all of the methods they have used to erect trade barriers at State lines have been found unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. But the current decision pointedly emphasizes the fact that there are limits beyond which the States cannot go in interfering with interstate and international trade. The decision should give added impetus to the movement to wipe out restrictive devices by interstate agreement..."

Health Bill A national health program designed to put public
Introduced care and service in this field on a highly developed and
 co-ordinated basis is provided in an Administration-
endorsed bill introduced by Senator Wagner this week as an amendment to
the Social Security Act. The program, which would involve estimated
Federal grants-in-aid of about \$80,000,000 in its first year of operation
and larger sums thereafter, was evolved through studies which have
occupied the last five years. It represents a completely new approach,
according to its sponsor, to a problem considered fundamental by the
administration. "No social legislation projected in our time," Senator
Wagner said in introducing his bill, "is more closely related to the
general welfare than a national program for health protection. No legisla-
tion makes as wide an appeal to the public conscience and to the dictates
of sound economy. No legislation was launched with more widespread
approval among persons in every walk of life. We must take action now to
conquer this last remaining frontier of social security in America." The
health program, he emphasized, does not provide for medical care by the
Federal Government and it "does not establish a system of health insur-
ance or require the States to do so." (New York Times.)

Michigan "At least 3,000 purebred rams have been distributed
Ram Trucks by the Michigan Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association in the
 11 years it has operated a ram truck, according to E. L.
Benson, animal husbandry extension specialist at Michigan State College,"
says Successful Farming (March). "Only 10 rams were sold the first year,
but in later years, the number has run over the 500 mark. The program
of the Michigan association is typical of that carried on by several Mid-
west states. Upon payment of \$1, a sheep breeder can become a member of
the association and consign his surplus or used rams of good type and
condition to the ram truck. Each Monday morning, during a six-weeks
period, the truck leaves Michigan State College with up to 80 rams.
Accompanying it are E. L. Benson and Bert Hoben, a lamb-grader for the
Detroit Livestock Exchange, who give demonstrations on management and
grading at the various stops. After the demonstrations, the rams are
sold to interested buyers at whatever price has been set by the consignor
plus \$5 to take care of the expenses of trucking, feed, and miscellany.
Only Shropshires, Oxfords, and Hampshires are regularly carried, but
other breeds may be had by ordering them through the office of the
Michigan college extension service. Sheepmen who have purchased rams
have the privilege of trading an animal in after finishing with him, pro-
viding he is in good condition and free of external parasites, animals so
taken being valued at existing market prices. 'As a method of spreading
the influence of good purebred rams, ram trucks seem unexcelled,' says
Benson. In regions where very few purebreds are produced, or where new
bloodlines are needed, the transportation of rams to that area has proved
to be a service of considerable value..."

Reclaimed
Swamps

"Marsh Firebreaks" is the title of an article in American Forests (March) by William T. Cox, Soil Conservation Service. He tells of plans for developing the Beltrami Project area (Minnesota) into one of the largest wildlife areas on the continent. He says in part: "Small and cheap control dams in great numbers were constructed, mostly in 1936, to hold and regulate water in the (existing drainage) ditches...In the brief time the ditches have been so largely under control the improvement of the area and the increase in wildlife have been very striking. Fires have been practically eliminated from what used to be one of the very worst fire districts in the country...The belts of wet marsh have served to keep them out...The marsh firebreaks...were also intended to serve as breeding grounds for wildlife, and their value in this respect has been just as strikingly demonstrated...The increase in beaver population has been notable. There are now fully twice as many of these valuable animals in this district as there were three years ago. Deer have increased rapidly, so have the elk; and even the moose have been gaining. The last remaining band of woodland caribou in the United States is found in this project area...The animals brought in are doing exceptionally well and give promise of saving the woodland caribou from extinction in the United States. But the most tremendous increase in wildlife is noted in the case of waterfowl. From the few pairs of mallards that used to nest around the occasional beaver ponds or along the Rapid River pools, there are now literally hundreds of thousands of ducks, of eight or nine species, hatching in these marshes--constituting what is probably the largest consolidated wildfowl nesting area in the country."

New Elm
Disease

The country's most esteemed shade tree, the American elm, is now beset with another epidemic killer, a virus disease. Pathologists of the Bureau of Plant Industry find it has killed thousands of elms in the last few years in the middle and lower Ohio Valley. First indications of the disease are a slight shriveling and brittleness of the leaf. This is accompanied by a rotting of the roots and the inner bark of the trunk. Within a few months the tree may be dead. This is the first time a virus disease has become an epidemic killer on forest or shade trees in the nation. When the bureau could find no organism responsible for the disease, they proved it a virus by grafting scions from diseased trees to healthy trees. In a number of cases the healthy tree was infected. The proof that such a disease will kill forest and shade trees in an epidemic way may open a new field in the study of tree diseases, bureau workers believe. They hope next to determine how the virus is spread and what may be done to combat it. (New York Times.)

Rural Sales

The Commerce Department says that sales of general merchandise in small towns and rural areas of the Middle West were 7 percent higher in January than in the same month last year, while for the nation as a whole the increase was 5 1/2 percent. (A.P.)

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Section 1

March 3, 1939

REORGANIZATION BILL ACTION By a "strictly party vote," a special House committee at its first meeting yesterday indorsed the new bill for reorganization of federal agencies and will report it out today, paving the way for possible House action on the measure next week, says a report in the *Washington Post*. The Democratic majority approved it without amendment. The proposed legislation is far less drastic than the reorganization bill that was defeated last session. It would give President Roosevelt power to submit reorganization proposals which would become effective unless the House and Senate, in concurrent resolution, vetoed them.

NEW YORK MILK SHED Willard H. Allen, New Jersey State Secretary of Agriculture, said yesterday that invalidation of a federal-state milk marketing agreement may "demoralize the price structure" in the Empire State and react on New Jersey by making it difficult to hold in line prices fixed by the Milk Control Board. Edward W. Currie, legal representative of the board, said, on the other hand, that New York prices "faced demoralization before and we successfully weathered the storm." The marketing agreement was upset last week at Albany by Federal Judge Frank Cooper, who held the pact contained "confiscatory" and "misrepresentative" features. (A.P.)

REED ASST. CHIEF BAE The appointment of Harry E. Reed as assistant chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is announced by C. W. Kitchen, associate chief. Mr. Reed, with a broad background in livestock production and agricultural marketing work, has been with the bureau for eight years. Since 1935 he has served as agricultural commissioner in the bureau's London and Berlin offices. In his new capacity, Mr. Reed will assist in the administration of all marketing research, service and regulatory work, including the federal-state crop and livestock estimating service, the nation-wide market news service, the farm products standardization and inspection services, and the administration of various federal laws pertaining to the marketing of farm products. These service and regulatory activities comprise the agricultural marketing service, as contemplated by Secretary Wallace in the departmental reorganization program.

Section 2

Senate, The Committee on Commerce submitted S. Rept. 120, on
March 1 S. 685, to create a Division of Water Pollution Control
 in the Public Health Service, which was reported without
amendment February 21.

House, The House agreed to the conference report on H.R.2868,
March 1 First Deficiency Appropriation Bill for 1939.

The House concurred in the Senate amendment increasing the item for New England hurricane damage from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000, by a vote of 203 to 146. The House concurred in the Senate amendment increasing the item for insect pest and plant-disease control with an amendment to fix the amount at \$2,250,000 instead of the previous House figure of \$2,000,000 or the Senate figure of \$5,417,000, by a vote of 118 to 96.

The House agreed to the conference report on H.R.3743, Independent Offices Appropriation Bill for 1940. The most controversial feature of the conference report was its agreement to the Senate increase in the T.V.A. item to provide for work on the Gilbertsville Dam and the Watts Bar Dam, and the vote was 184 to 175.

The Committee on Appropriations reported H.R.4630, War Department Appropriation Bill for 1940 (H.Rept. 112).

Mr. Culkin spoke in opposition to H.R.2531, the Lea bill to amend the Interstate Commerce Act to extend the powers of the I.C.Commission.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs reported without amendment H.J. Res. 150, to amend Public Resolution No. 125, 75th Cong., regarding participation in the Third International Congress for Microbiology, 1939 (H.Rept. 115).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Terminology Scientists are tackling one of the most difficult of
for Colors all jobs known to men--the task of bringing some semblance
 of order out of the chaos of terms designating colors.
Colors and their proper scientific designation are most important in many fields; in medicine, paper making, textiles, industry generally, lighting, psychology and fashion. It was only a few years ago that colorists found there were 59 different colors all designated by the same name on the color charts of manufacturers. And, in another case, there were 47 quite similar colors all designated by different color names. At the meeting of the Inter-Society Color Council recently, scientists reported the newest advances in building up a true simple chart of colors which would replace the hodge-podge of names now used except for advertising purposes. Dr. E. N. Gathercoal of the University of Illinois School of Pharmacy, said great simplification of color designations has been found possible, until the number of terms needed is only a few and variations of shade are possible by use of a careful list of a few qualifying adjectives. (Science Service.)

Strip Coal "Operators of strip coal mines have pursued their
Mining ruthless way until many citizens are becoming outraged,"
 says an editorial in the *Prairie Farmer* (February 25).

"Wasted farm land is desecrated, robbed of its mineral wealth, and allowed to lie a barren, unsightly waste. Shaft miners by the thousands have been put out of work, because of the greater daily tonnage taken from strip mines with machines. This has not been reflected in a lower price of coal to consumers. Waste land reverting to the state for taxes when abandoned by the mining companies, has taken great acreages off the county tax lists, placing heavier burdens upon the rest of the property. The state of mind of the public is reflected in the fact that bills compelling the restoration of the land, making it level, with the surface soil on top, have been introduced this session in the Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana legislatures."

Deficient The lower-paid workers buy mostly food that "sticks
Food Diets to the ribs," as they put it, but that is merely "hunger-
 staying," as the experts say, and lacks needed minerals
and vitamins, according to a survey made by the Department of Agriculture. The study was made by Dr. Hazel K. Stiebeling and Esther F. Phippard of the Bureau of Home Economics as a WPA project. It covered 4,000 diets of employed wage-earners and low-salaried clerical workers in forty-three industrial centers in eight parts of the country. The report says that when families could afford only \$1.25 to \$1.87 a person a week for food, the diet had the above defects. When the budget rose to \$3.75 to \$4.37 a person a week, the diet included nearly twice as much milk, and from two to three times as much butter, eggs, green and yellow vegetables, meat, poultry and fish. The survey showed potatoes to be one of the most popular single foods, regardless of the amount spent. North Atlantic families were the heaviest potato eaters. Bread varied less in quantity with change in income, but tastes varied widely. Much more rye bread and macaroni was eaten in North Atlantic cities. Whole wheat as well as rye was popular on the Pacific Coast. Southern families, especially Negroes, showed a preference for home-baked breads. (New York Times.)

Canadian The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that in
Trade the first month of operation of the new United States-
 Canada trade treaty, Canadian exports to the United States
totaled \$36,277,000--an increase of 75 percent over figures for January, 1938. Imports from the United States, on the other hand, aggregated \$28,790,000, a decrease of 11 percent, compared with \$32,330,000 in January, 1938. Imports from the United Kingdom fell 19.8 percent to \$7,110,000. Exports to the United Kingdom dropped to \$25,554,000 from \$33,570,000 in January of last year, a decrease of 23 percent. (Canadian Press.)

Package Law "Uniform package laws for fruits and vegetables and uniform regulations as to weights and measures are cited by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as major needs for growers and handlers of these perishable farm products," says the Market Growers Journal (February 15). "According to the bureau, some 30 states have established standard containers other than those established by federal law. For the most part these state standards are designed to facilitate the shipping of produce grown in the state adopting them. And approved containers for one state may fail to comply with the weights and measures requirements of another state. If state laws were strictly enforced, bureau officials say, the vast interchange in fruits and vegetables between states could be carried on only with extreme difficulty. These conflicts, it is pointed out, tend to nullify standardization efforts which seek to set up trading units whereby the quantity, quality, nature and value of fruits and vegetables may be easily determined for the purpose of preventing deception and to facilitate trading."

The same periodical, in an article, "New Things to Try," mentions the Baby Fordhook bean and the Northstar strawberry. "Baby Fordhook," it says, "is the baby of Dr. Roy Magruder of the Bureau of Plant Industry and seems to have done well. It is progeny of a cross between Henderson and Fordhook. It has the plump seed of the latter though pods and seeds are smaller. It has the earliness, vigor and heavy yield of Henderson. It looks good for canning purposes." "Northstar, a promising new, medium early strawberry recently released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has big beautiful berries said to rival Fairfax in quality. A berry specialist in Salisbury, Md., reports harvesting a larger percentage of large berries from Northstar than any other variety grown by him--and he grows a large number. It is recommended as a second early variety for both home and market planting."

Community Stock Sales "According to Dr. Zimmer of Ohio, one of the oldest methods of barter and exchange of livestock has become, in recent years, a serious factor in the spread of contagious diseases of swine," says the department, "The Veterinarian's Notebook," in Successful Farming (March). "To protect the recognized advantages of community sales and their potential value to the livestock industry, the State of Ohio put into effect certain restrictions in 1935. Market operators were placed under bond and veterinary inspection and vaccination of animals were also compulsory--a policy which might be well considered by other states to protect buyers and sellers. One state reported 172 community sales stables, and a summary of the outbreaks of contagious swine diseases originating from them clearly indicated that the future value of community sales will be greatly influenced by the type of veterinary inspection."

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Section I

March 6, 1939

CROP CONTROL PROGRAM

Secretary Wallace has advised Congress that the present crop control laws "provide for a sounder and more workable farm program than would be possible under any of the suggested alternatives which have come to my attention." He made the comment in a letter to Vice President Garner and Speaker Bankhead. Mr. Wallace said that if no substantial change was made in the present program, "1939 will be the first year since termination of the programs under the original AAA of 1933 that farmers will have had a fair chance to make their crop plans at the beginning of the season so as to conform to the program and participate in full therein." (A.P.)

WINTER WHEAT CONDITION

A Chicago report to the New York Times says the heaviest snowfall of the season occurred early the past week in Kansas and parts of Oklahoma and Nebraska, materially improving the outlook for the winter wheat crop. Temperatures are gradually rising in the Southwest and the wheat crop is commencing to show growth in some areas, especially in parts of Texas. There has not been sufficient growing weather yet, however, to enable observers to determine the extent of the probable losses caused last week. Reports from Texas indicate that about 1,000,000 acres of wheat in the Panhandle area is in good condition, while in the rest of the state the outlook is less favorable. Moisture conditions in the Oklahoma Panhandle are said to be the best since 1931, with the outlook good. Crop comments from Kansas are mixed, but it is believed a considerable quantity of wheat will pull through. Except for southwestern Nebraska, that state has ample moisture for the time being. States east of the Mississippi River report winter wheat in fair to good condition.

GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

Majority and minority reports of the Special House Committee on Government Reorganization have been filed on the compromise bill and unanimous consent was given by the House for eight hours of general debate on the measure, which probably will reach the House floor some time after March 13. The majority report called attention to the fact that many Presidents have asked for authority to regroup agencies, which now number 135, and under them are more than 500 bureaus. The bill, the majority said, will make for more efficiency and economy in government by granting the President power to abolish or regroup all except 16 independent agencies exempted. (New York Times.)

Senate, Agreed to the conference report on H.R. 3743, inde-
Mar. 2 pendent offices appropriation bill for 1940. The same
conferees were appointed for a further conference on the
amendments in disagreement. (Conference report agreed to in House March 1.)

The Committee on Foreign Relations reported with amendment S. 902,
to amend Public No. 545, 75th Cong., authorizing detail of U.S. employees
to foreign countries (S.Rept. 128).

Mr. Lundeen spoke briefly in favor of increasing the domestic pro-
duction of flaxseed and inserted in the Record "other material and data
concerning the growth and domestic production of flax."

House, Began general debate on H.R. 4630, War Department
Mar. 2 appropriation bill for 1940. The following speeches were
made: by Mr. Alexander, opposing the activities of the
Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation; by Mr. Nelson, supporting the
farm program of the Roosevelt Administration and criticizing that of
former Secretary Hyde; by Mr. Fenton, favoring the regional research
laboratories; by Mr. Hare, favoring H.R. 4429, to place cotton in reserve
as a munition of war; by Mr. Burdick, asking legislation to reduce the
interest load on farmers.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Contour "Plowing fields on the contour is faster and more
Flowing economical than plowing up and down hill," says Wallaces'
Farmer (February 25). "In experiments carried on at
Kansas State College, a rubber-mounted tractor pulling a three-bottom,
14-inch plow, took about 10 percent less fuel and went over about 14
percent more acres in a given time under the contour method, because it
was working practically on the level at all times and did not need to be
shifted from high gear. In contrast, the tractor with up and down hill
plowing had to be operated in second gear when going up a slope. It was
possible to move the plow without such changing, but an overload on the
tractor resulted, and there still was heavier use of fuel than with con-
touring. The slope in these tests was 7 percent..."

Blue Mold E. B. Clayton, Bureau of Plant Industry, in Southern
Prevention Agriculturist (March) says that a new, simple gas treat-
ment will check blue mold of tobacco. The treatment, he
says, was worked out "in cooperative tests conducted last year by the
Bureau of Plant Industry and the States of Georgia, South Carolina, North
Carolina and Maryland...Under proper conditions, the gas treatment gives
100 percent blue mold control, and has the further advantage over a
spray treatment in that the gassing may be started after blue mold ap-
pears. The vapors not only prevent further development of the disease,
but actually check and finally destroy infection already present in the
plants...It is necessary to begin a gas treatment before the plants are
seriously affected...F.B. 1799 gives in detail the methods that have been
found most effective in blue mold control."

Community Service Loans The Farm Security Administration announces that more than 7,000 groups of small farmers borrowed \$4,404,132 to purchase equipment and services for group use from the beginning of its Community Service Loan program in July 1935, to January 1, 1939. Such loans have enabled 128,856 farm families, composing 7,183 groups, to improve their farming operations through equipment or services not previously available. These include combines, silage cutters, pure-bred sires, cold storage plants, bulldozers and terracing equipment, syrup mills, hay balers, hatcheries and tractors, and also canning, laundry, and sewing equipment to lighten the farm home work. The average size of the loans made during the first three and one-half years of the FSA's group loan program has been \$594.51 per group, or \$34.10 for each farmer participating. The loans may be retired over five years and bear three percent interest. They are available only to needy and low-income farmers.

Canned Food Regulation "A significant experiment in the regulation of canned food production is being launched in one section of the industry this year," says an editorial in the New York Journal of Commerce (March 2). "The organization has been announced of the Corn Cannery Service Bureau to act as a clearing house for information and advice to corn packers on future production. Can manufacturing companies, machinery and supply concerns and canners are sponsoring the plan. As a result of the large carryover and heavy pack last year, corn canners entered the current crop year on August 1 last with a supply of 25,657,000 cases...The bureau will seek to help adjust the size of the 1939 pack...The benefits of successful cooperative regulation of canning are best illustrated by the Hawaiian Pineapple Cannery Cooperative which began operations several years ago at a time when that industry faced a chaotic situation comparable to that of the vegetable canning trade at the present time. The market for canned pineapple has since been stabilized, while consumption has been largely increased through active promotion throughout the world. Of course, stabilization of the vegetable canning industry will be far more difficult. Four large companies conduct pineapple packing, whereas hundreds of canners through the Atlantic States and the Middle West, and in some cases along the Pacific Coast, pack corn...The success of the new bureau would constitute impressive testimony of ability of the industry to solve its problems through cooperative effort."

Dairy Herd Records V. A. Rice, Massachusetts State College, is author of "Our Breed Associations--Where Do They Go From Here? in Successful Farming (March). He says in part: "A fine system of recording D.H.I. Association records and getting valuable data quickly into the hands of the breeder has been set up by the Bureau of Dairy Industry, in cooperation with state colleges. If a bull is being used in a D.H.I. herd we can write to our state extension dairy specialist and get the breeding facts about the bull as soon as he has five daughters with records from dams with records, as these facts are published twice yearly. The writer, nevertheless, believes that there is

some danger in this setup because he does not believe that five daughter-dam comparisons are enough to prove a bull. And, too, they must be an unselected, run-of-the-mine group. It would seem that the breeds could well afford to discourage, and shortly give up entirely, selective testing, and induce their breeders to test all their cows every year in D.H.I. Associations. The records would go to Washington, through the Bureau of Dairy Industry... This would relieve the breeds of this expensive line of activity..."

Poultry
Products

E. H. Harvey, of the Institute of American Poultry Industries, in the U.S. Egg and Poultry Magazine (March) reports that a poultry production division has been established at Iowa State College, cooperatively with the institute. Iowa State College furnishes the necessary facilities to carry on this research and the poultry industry will select the problems and underwrite part of the expense. "Here, for the first time," says Mr. Harvey, "is a practical, workable plan which will tie together the facilities of a splendidly equipped and cooperative midwestern college with a large agricultural industry." Dr. George F. Stewart, Department of Poultry Husbandry at Iowa, assumes the direction of research in poultry products.

Locker Plants
for Cities

City residents as well as farmers are becoming interested in the services of cold storage lockers, it was indicated recently at a cold storage locker conference in Illinois, says an Urbana report in the Chicago Tribune. The meeting, first of its kind in the state, was sponsored by the Illinois College of Agriculture. Frank C. Smith, secretary of the Iowa Locker Association, said: "indications are that cold storage lockers will invade larger cities, particularly factory towns and poorer residential districts where residents are obliged to watch food costs and save wherever possible. Customers of cold storage locker plants are using better quality home-killed meats each year..."

Bot Fly
Control

"A work horse enemy, the bot fly, is being fought in an organized way by county draft house breeders' associations, county agents and local veterinarians in many sections of the Corn Belt," says the Farm Journal (March). "What is going on in eighteen Ohio counties is typical. There organized campaigns have been completed or are under way for the control of bots in more than 40,000 work horses. Treatments which formerly cost approximately \$1 a head now cost only 50 cents a horse since the organization of the campaigns. Farmers in thirteen Ohio counties where the bot fly control campaigns have been in progress from one to five years say that during the work season following treatment their horses have not been tormented or bothered nearly so much by bot flies; that they made more efficient use of their feed; that it was easier to keep them in condition; and that they arrived at the spring work season strong and ready to go into the fields."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 45

Section 1

March 7, 1939

WALLACE ON STATE TRADE BARRIERS

The national policy of protecting home industry by trade barriers is now being followed by "practically every state" in the Union to protect its industries and farms against the other forty-seven, according to a special report given out by Secretary Wallace yesterday. Interstate trade barriers are causing "incalculable economic loss," said the report, prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. It urged federal and state cooperation to remove them. Every farm product was affected by existing regulations and restrictions on interstate trade, the report said. Discriminatory inspection fees, licenses and taxes; conflicting food grading, labeling and packaging laws, and "a bewildering maze of quarantines, embargoes and other impositions" were listed. In addition, the report warned that "interstate trade wars may result from state-financed advertising campaigns for home products," and it reported "border wars" over motor truck licenses. The situation was becoming of critical importance to every economic group in the United States, Secretary Wallace said in a foreword. (New York Times.)

COTTON SURPLUS

Secretary Wallace disclosed yesterday that although the United States is confronted by a cotton surplus of more than 13,000,000 bales, it has less than 2,000,000 bales available for export during the six months ending August 1. He wrote Chairman Smith, of South Carolina, of the Senate Agriculture Committee, that policies should be adopted to make larger supplies available to foreign buyers at prices competitive with foreign cotton. Secretary Wallace said that on January 31 the supply of "free" cotton in this country totaled 4,943,000 bales. More than 11,200,000 bales have been impounded in warehouses throughout the South as collateral for loans to growers. Under present laws, this cotton cannot be released by the government. (A.P.)

OIL EXCISE PROPOSED

Secretary Hull told the Senate Finance Committee yesterday that to impose a new excise on imports of all classes of oils, as proposed by three Senators in bills offered as amendments to the public salary tax bill, would be in contravention of our trade agreements with Great Britain, Canada, the Netherlands and Brazil. (New York Times.)

Civil Service The Civil Service Commission announces the following
Examinations examinations: No. 30 (unassembled), Chief of Occupational
 Information and Guidance Service, \$5600; Specialist,
Occupational Information, \$4600; Specialist, Consultation and Field
Service, \$4600; Specialist in Occupations for Girls and Women, \$3800,
Office of Education, Department of the Interior. Applications must be
on file not later than: (a) April 3, if received from States other than
those named in (b), (b) April 6, if received from Arizona, California,
Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington,
Wyoming. No. 31 (assembled) Junior Multigraph Operator, \$1440. Appli-
cations must be on file not later than: (a) March 27, (b) March 30.

Minn. Soil "Soil conservation gains for Minnesota under the
Conservation last three years of AAA operation have been substantial,"
 says an editorial in St. Paul Pioneer Press (February 27).
"The quickest measure of these gains, from a conservation standpoint, is
to be found in the recent estimate of Charles W. Stickney, chairman of
the Minnesota Agricultural Conservation Committee, that 1,316,000 acres
were diverted from soil depleting to soil conserving crops. That is a
great gain for conservation. And it is a contribution to a better
balance in agriculture. The gain for conservation is neither as great
nor as permanent as it would be, however, if a much larger portion of
the diverted acreage had been turned into permanent farm woodlots. There
were about 21 million acres covered by the 1938 program. And on all
the farms comprising this great area only 2,600 acres were planted to
trees...Expenditure of a greater proportion of the funds for diversion
of crop acreage into permanent, income-producing woodlots, would achieve
a lasting gain for conservation and assure a more permanent contribution
to balanced farming..."

Fur Animal The United States Biological Survey, in collaboration
Nutrition with scientists of Cornell University, is studying the
 nutrition needs of the silver fox and the mink in a
technical five-year study, the Department of Agriculture announces.
There are now produced about 300,000 silver fox and 200,000 mink pelts
annually, it reports. Feeds will be chemically analyzed, digestion
noted, and data set down--even concerning vitamins--by scientists working
from the Animal Experiment Station, Saratoga Springs, New York.
(Washington Post.)

Rotenone Rotenone-bearing roots, used for centuries in the
Imports tropics as a fish poison, are becoming increasingly im-
 portant in this country for the manufacture of insect
poisons. According to the Commerce Department, imports of these roots
rose by 25 percent in the past year, reaching 3,000,000 pounds valued at
\$382,000. (Press.)

Forest
Survey

"Probably the most essentially constructive activity ever undertaken by the Forest Service is the Forest Survey, the official census of the nation's timber resources, which was authorized in 1928 and which is still under way," says an editorial in Southern Lumberman (March 1). "...The work has now covered some 280,000,000 acres of the nation's forest land--about one-half of the entire stand of timber. Most of the data obtained has been analyzed, and a close study of forest products requirements and trends, based on these statistics, has almost been completed. Incomplete as the Survey is, it has already progressed far enough to produce some very valuable and enlightening information; and some of the old theories of conservation are having to be revamped to keep them in line with the facts as developed by the Survey. The Survey is providing a firm taking-off place for students of conservation and timber utilization who want to build on a firm foundation; and its worth to the nation is hard to measure in dollars and cents..."

Hybrid
Poplars

Harland Manchester, author of "High-Speed Trees" in the Country Home Magazine (March) describes hybrid poplars. He says "even conservative geneticists predict that the hybrid poplar will grow four times as fast as the common wild aspen or poplar. Moreover, and just as amazing to me as their rapid rate of growth, a grove of these trees once planted need not be cultivated or replanted. Sprouts shoot up from the stumps, and often reach nine or ten feet the first season. Many of the hybrids show resistance to the rust blight which attacks the wild poplar, and their wood is denser and therefore more productive. The timber is suitable for many building uses and a variety of products can be made from it--pulp for paper, cellulose for artificial silk, paint, radios, ash trays, fountain pens, cellophane and other things...Dr. E. J. Schreiner of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station and Dr. A. B. Stout of the New York Botanical Gardens, who for fifteen years have been working on the project...warn that some problems remain to be solved before the poplar is offered to the public. Not enough of the trees have been produced to permit large-scale plantings. The best age for marketing the trees is a matter yet to be settled. The younger trees can be used only for pulp or cellulose, while mature trees are also suitable for other uses and can be marketed with relatively lower labor costs. Possibly a variety of plans will be used, depending on the region and the intended market. The scientific groundwork has been laid, however... Since their initial experiments in 1924, Stout and Schreiner have bred more than 14,000 poplar hybrids. There are now about fifty experimental plantings of these hybrids scattered across the country from coast to coast. On the Maine plantation, the better ten-year-old hybrids are around nine inches in diameter at breast height, and between fifty and fifty-five feet tall. At the end of eight years some of the best hybrids measure 7 or 8 inches in diameter. A common poplar of the same age would be only about 2 or 3 inches thick...The government has found poplars among the best trees for windbreaks and checking erosion, and already some of the new hybrids are being tested in the TVA project..."

Senate, Mr. Connally and Mr. Gillette submitted amendments
Mar. 3 which they intend to propose to H.R. 3790 (Public Salary
Tax Act) regarding taxes on vegetable oils.

House, Passed the War Department Appropriation Bill for 1940,
Mar. 3 H.R. 4630. Mr. Coffee of Wash. spoke in favor of continu-
ation of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The Select Committee on Government Organization reported without
amendment H.R. 4425, the reorganization bill (H.Rept. 120).

Senate, Agreed to S.Res 89, requesting the Farm Credit Adminis-
Mar. 4 tration for information regarding deficiency judgments ob-
tained by the federal land banks and the land bank commis-
sioner in connection with real estate loans.

Received from the Secretary of Agriculture suggested amendments to
the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act and the Agricultural
Adjustment Act of 1938; to Com. on Agriculture and Forestry.

House, Received a supplemental estimate of appropriation
Mar. 4 1939 for water conservation and utilization projects,
\$5,000,000 (H.Doc. 194); to Com. on Appropriations.

Received supplemental estimates for payment of claims, as follows:
claims for damages to privately owned property, \$3,818.51 (H.Doc. 195);
judgments rendered by Court of Claims, \$387,062.58 (H.Doc. 196).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Plywood for "Packaged" Homes "After five years of premature publicity, the low-
income home builder seems to have a chance to cash in on
the promise of prefabrication," says Business Week (March
4). "Laboratory technicians boast that at last they have
licked the problem of building factory-made wooden dwellings, cheap
enough to meet the mass market demand, strong enough to withstand the
rigors of all weather. The search for building materials to substitute
for the conventional sawed lumber and nails led directly to laminated
plywood...Only recently have the proper adhesives been found. Laminated
panels, which are made with the new synthetic resins and put together
under heat and great pressure, are said to be stronger than steel sheets
of equal weight. They are impervious to moisture, light in weight and
easy to handle...To put the new phenolic-plywood to a test, the U.S.
Forest Products Laboratory built an experimental house. It stood up
under trials of wind and weather...Ft. Wayne, Ind., has attracted nation-
wide notice by experiments with cheap plywood homes. This project dates
from a house developed at Purdue University..."

Ladino Clover In 1938, in tests at the Pennsylvania Experiment Sta-
tion, Ladino clover was compared with five other white
clover types from domestic and foreign sources. It led with a wide margin
both in yield and in its ability to survive under pasture conditions.
(Farm Journal, March.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 46

Section 1

March 8, 1939

CONSIDER FOOD SCRIP PLAN

Finishing touches are being put on tentative governmental plans to experiment in six cities with getting surplus foods to hungry persons entirely through private enterprise, all the way from farmer to grocer, says a report in the New York Times. The plan is to give the undernourished the means to buy through a voluntary scrip system designed to maintain present food purchases while increasing the consumption of whatever surplus commodities the government most desires consumed at any given time. These plans will be submitted to the national conference of wholesale and retail grocers in Washington on Monday and Tuesday. They will try to work out a sound experimental plan in conjunction with representatives of the Department of Agriculture, the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation, the relief agencies and other interested parties. At present handling of these surpluses is entirely in official hands, the F.S.C.C. buying them directly from the producer and distributing them to the needy through the WPA and the direct relief system. According to the plans for the experiment, wholesale grocers would buy from producers while the retail grocers did the distributing, obviating government machinery.

FDA SEIZES BROMO-SELTZER

Isadore Leff, assistant United States district attorney, said yesterday that federal agents in Atlanta, Georgia, had seized more than 2,300 bottles of bromo-seltzer, a proprietary medicine, on charges it was mislabeled and potentially "dangerous to health." The petition of accusation, filed under the federal food, drug and cosmetic act of 1938, alleged that the medicine was "misbranded" and "is dangerous to health when used in the dosage or with the frequency prescribed" on the containers. The Emerson Drug Company of Baltimore, makers of the remedy, which is used for headaches and neuralgia, is to file by April 1 an answer to the charges against the product. (A.P.)

CANADIAN TRADE PACT

Discussions with Canada have begun in an effort to iron out a number of difficulties which arose after the new trade agreement with the Dominion went into effect January 1. The difficulties revolve around Canadian methods of fixing valuation on American products for the purpose of applying duty. Exports from the United States to Canada fell 11 percent in the first month of operation of the new agreement. Officials of the Trade Agreement Division of the State Department express the opinion, however, that exports should now increase, in line with the results obtained from other trade agreements. (A.F.)

Waxing Seed
Potatoes

E. V. Hardenburg and Hans Platenius of Cornell University report in the American Potato Journal (February) on the waxing of seed potatoes. They say in summary: "Treating seed potatoes with a 30 percent 231-B wax emulsion while still in a dormant condition, resulted in a stimulation of sprout growth, an earlier emergence of plants and a corresponding increase in yield. The beneficial effects of waxing seem to be similar to those produced by greensprouting. The results reported in this preliminary experiment were apparently due to conservation of moisture accompanied by sprout growth stimulation in the treated tubers. Further work will determine the effect of waxing on respiration of seed treated immediately after harvest and on subsequent yield. The cost and practicability of waxing seed potatoes should not be essentially different from that now used by growers who disinfect seed by the instantaneous dip method."

Government

In a comprehensive study on Government reorganization published this week, Dr. Lewis Meriam and Dr. Laurence F. Schmeckebier, of Brookings Institution, declare that structural revamping will result in comparatively minor economies, and that "savings large enough to play a really important part in bringing Government outgo down to the level of income can come only from elimination and curtailment of certain types of activities." This step, it is added, "involves large issues of public policy." The collaborators point out that in the last fiscal year, the allowance for all administrative activities, including administration of "emergency" activities, was \$1,827,318,000, or approximately 17.65 percent of the total budget. The remaining \$8,522,590,000 was appropriated for functions and activities which administrative reorganization would not affect. This is broken down as follows: Interest on public debt, 8.96 percent; veteran benefits, 4.79; social security, 6.25; national defense, 10.44; public works, 8.14; acquisition of land for game refuges, etc., 0.02; loans, advances and grants, 22.39; work relief projects, 20.77; judgments, damage claims, private relief acts, 0.18; treaty obligations, 0.04; interest on trust deposits, 0.02; contribution to District of Columbia, 0.05; legislative establishment, 0.12; judicial establishment, 0.18. (Washington Star.)

1938 Wool
Production

The wool growers of the country suffered a loss of almost \$46,000,000 in income in 1938, compared with 1937, despite increased production, the Department of Agriculture estimates. The reason was the fall in the average price from 32 cents in 1937 to 19.1 cents in 1938, so that the value of shorn wool fell from \$117,270,000 to \$71,378,000. Wool production rose to 436,510,000 pounds against 45,928,000 in 1937, with the weight of wool for a sheep averaging the same for both years--7.98 pounds. (Press.)

Radio for Rural Areas "The Radio and Rural Research" is the title of an article by F. Howard Forsyth, University of Minnesota, in Rural Sociology (March). An abstract of the article says: "Radio, as an instrument of diffusion of urban culture and two-way levelling of rural and urban cultures, has and will have effects which if not incalculable are at least still uncalculated. Measurement of these effects awaits statement of crucial hypotheses. Several hypotheses, taken mostly from American research reports, are suggested: (1) that radio will consolidate changes in some folkways of rural recreation, (2) that rural listeners demand different dialogue and music, (3) that radio is reducing rural-urban social distance, (4) that this partially follows the effects of farm broadcasts on city listeners, (5) that the impact of radio is nevertheless greater upon rural than urban listeners, (6) that the acceptability of radio is greater among higher-income farmers than other farmers, (7) that radio reorganizes the farmer's use of time, (8) that radio has affected the life of farm women, (9) that radio provides programs differentially adapted to inter-family differences in sex and age, and (10) that despite the levelling effect of radio it is a potentially partisan instrument in rural class consciousness."

Weed Control Legislation In the Land Resources Department of the Journal of Land & Public Utility Economics (February) George S. Wehrwein reports: "During 1937 and 1938 only two completely new weed control laws were enacted--in Kansas and Washington. Other states merely added to existing lists of noxious weeds subject to control and eradication, or otherwise amended existing legislation so as to clarify or expand control procedures. The types of amendments enacted indicate the increase of noxious weeds; they have been spreading rapidly on state, county, and federal, as well as privately owned, lands. The strengthening of control measures is designed to cope more effectively with this menace..."

Vermont F.H.I.A. What is believed to be the first dairy herd improvement association in the United States that is sponsored by a milk marketing cooperative has been organized in Vermont, it was announced by E. H. Loveland, dairyman for the Extension Service. The association is composed of about 25 farmers and is sponsored by the United Farmers' Cooperative Creamery Association. Greater efficiency in milk production and improvement in milk marketing will go hand in hand, according to the plans of the cooperative, which is organizing another dairy herd improvement association in northern Franklin County and is planning to organize more such associations among its 1,500 members. The new association is known as the First United Farmers' Dairy Herd Improvement Association. Its expenses are being paid partly by its members and partly by the creamery. The testing will be carried on under the supervision of the Vermont Extension Service which is in charge of dairy herd improvement association work in the state. (Hoard's Dairyman, March 10.)

Senate, The Special Senate Committee to Investigate Executive
Mar. 6 Agencies of the Government reported S. 1706, the Byrd re-
 organization bill (S.Rept. 142).

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported without amendment S. 518, to provide for further development of extension work (S.Rept. 143).

The Committee on Judiciary reported without amendment S. 1281, to prohibit reproductions of official badges, identification cards and other insignia (S.Rept. 132).

House, Considering bills on the consent calendar, the House
Mar. 6 passed the following: S. 660, to provide for reapportionment of cotton acreage allotments not planted by farmers entitled thereto (with amendments); H.R. 913, to prohibit the unauthorized use of the name or insignia of the 4-H Clubs; H.J.Res. 150, to amend the joint resolution providing for participation in the Third International Congress for Microbiology. The following bills were passed over: H.R. 3800, to amend section 8 (e) of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act to reduce the limitation on payments; H.R. 3134, to amend the act authorizing detail of U.S. employees to foreign countries (passed over after discussion).

Began debate on H.R. 4425, the reorganization bill.

Mr. Rees of Kansas spoke in favor of his bill, H.R. 4753, to increase the soil conservation payments of small operators and decrease the payments of large operators.

Mr. Robison criticized the Roosevelt Administration with special reference to its farm policies.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Articles The March Country Home Magazine contains the following articles: Agriculture's Foreign Legion, by George W. Smith, describing work of plant explorers in the Bureau of Plant Industry; and 500,000 Glamour Girls, by Frances Andrews, who tells of modern 4-H Club girls.

Nutritional A. F. Camp, Citrus Experiment Station (Fla.) in
Citrus Sprays Florida Grower (March) writes on "Nutritional Sprays for Citrus". He says in part: "Copper, manganese, zinc and magnesium have become integral parts of the nutritional program in a large proportion of the groves of Florida. It is unfortunate, perhaps, that the terms 'minor elements' or 'secondary elements' ever came into use for they have tended to minimize the importance of these elements in the field of plant nutrition, in spite of the fact that the deficiency of these may produce losses ranging from mild tree injury to total crop loss. It would appear that in the next few years all of the above and probably others will become as commonplace constituents of plant foods as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium have been during the past, and with decided benefit to the citrus industry. Already there is less tendency to consider them as palliatives and to accept them for what they are, i.e., legitimate plant foods."

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Vol. LXXII, No. 47

Section 1

March 9, 1939

COTTON PROBLEM

President Roosevelt moved yesterday to head off the so-called "cost-of-production plan" of farm relief with some more practical and less expensive stop-gap measure intended to carry the existing adjustment program through present and prospective surpluses until present "controls" can be applied safely. With indications that a cost-of-production bill will be reported soon from the House Agriculture Committee, the President called to the White House the four Cabinet members principally concerned with the problems of production, processing, foreign and domestic trade and finance--Secretaries Hull, Morgenthau, Wallace and Hopkins. The announced purpose of the conference was the immediate problem presented by the 13,000,000-bale cotton surplus and measures proposed for holding up the income of producers in the face of this and other price-depressing factors, but there were other indications than the length of time devoted to the discussion that the whole farm surplus problem was surveyed. Secretary Wallace said no drastic changes in the present program were contemplated, although certain modifications were necessary to prevent a further piling up of stocks in government hands. (New York Times.)

REORGANIZATION BILL PASSED

The House passed the Cochran-Warren governmental reorganization bill yesterday after the Democrats had massed forces to bring the measure through its final test without radical change. The vote was 246 to 153, largely along party lines. One amendment, offered by Representative Sumners, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, would have provided that either branch of Congress, by simple resolution, could disapprove an executive reorganization order. It was defeated on roll call, 209 to 193, after it had been adopted in committee of the whole by a teller vote of 176 to 156. Since this was the only amendment attached to the bill in committee of the whole to which Democrat leadership objected, the bill was sent to the Senate substantially as it was offered last week to the House by its Select Committee on Reorganization. (New York Times.)

TRANSPORTATION BILL INTRODUCED

Representative Lea of California, chairman of the House Interstate Commerce Committee introduced yesterday a comprehensive general transportation bill sponsored by President Roosevelt's special committee of six experts on railway management and labor. The legislation would create a new transportation board; give to the carriers greater discretion in fixing their own rates; place heavy tolls on water carriers. (A.P.)

Commercial Messrs. Lundstrom and Mehring, of the Bureau of
Fertilizers Chemistry & Soils, are authors of "Complete Composition
 of Commercial Mixed Fertilizers" in Industrial and En-
gineering Chemistry (March). A resume says: "Forty-four representa-
tive samples of commercial mixed fertilizers were collected from manu-
facturers and state control officials in sixteen states in 1935. Ordinary complete mixtures were represented by twenty-seven samples with
average nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash contents the same as
those of all commercial fertilizers consumed in recent years. Double-
strength and concentrated fertilizer mixtures were also included in the
study. Chemical determinations were made for all constituents ordi-
narily occurring in commercial fertilizers in more than traces and also
for those trace elements that have proved to be of value in plant or
animal nutrition. Nearly all fertilizers, including concentrated
grades, contain all of the secondary plant food elements as well as
nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. The double-strength mixtures con-
tain about the same quantities of the various constituents found in
ordinary grades except acid-insoluble matter. This indicates that the
chief difference is in the amount of filler added. The concentrated
mixtures contain less of most of the constituents other than those
supplying nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash."

Economic "A condition of affairs in interstate commerce not
Civil War hitherto wholly unsuspected has been vividly pictured in
 a report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics," says
an editorial in the Wall Street Journal (March 8). "Gradually, but
rather rapidly in recent years, a majority of the states have been
erecting a complicated system of barriers to the free flow of trade
across state lines. The Constitution was thought and intended to pre-
vent state restrictions upon free internal trade and it specifically
forbids a state to lay duties upon its exports or imports, 'except what
may be absolutely necessary for its inspection laws.' Through this
exception loophole many a state government have driven the proverbial
coach-and-four. In many places and in respect to a considerable num-
ber of commodities the result is a group of veritable tariff-protection
systems within the Union, each of statewide scope. Nobody will be dis-
posed to deny--and certainly the Bureau does not--the right of each
state to adopt such regulations to protect the public health or to sub-
ject rail or highway traffic to police regulation as its legislators
think necessary. When the purpose of state laws goes beyond these ends
and attempts to give the state's producers a monopoly of the 'home
market,' the state enacting them has begun a process which cannot fail
soon to injure instead of benefitting its own citizens. It has already
come about, says the Bureau report, that states have resorted to re-
taliatory legislation and more numerous cases have occurred of actual
or attempted boycott by private group action against out-state products..."

Mechanical Milk Cooling Small electric refrigeration plants for cooling and holding milk are rapidly coming into use on farms, according to a new Farmers' Bulletin 1818. The recent extension of rural electric lines is listed as one important reason. Among others are: improvement of the refrigeration machine, reduced cost of electricity, saving in labor, regulations of health departments, and irregular deliveries of ice. The bulletin is by J. R. McCalmont of the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering. It has detailed plans for a storage tank and for small and large storage boxes, one of the walk-in type. A survey of 50 dairy farms showed the cost of complete refrigeration plant varied from \$10.40 to \$30.50 per cubic foot of capacity and averaged \$15.14 per cubic foot. The average cost for repairs was \$3.60 a year.

Soilless Farming Dr. Dachnowski-Stokes, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, is author of "The Growth of Natural Vegetation as Water Cultures" in the March Scientific Monthly. He says in conclusion: "The maintenance of nutritional requirements favorable to particular plants growing without a mineral soil involves much experimental work and many difficulties. Certain changes occur, the general tendency of which may be designated as a change to acid reactions, which are accompanied by changes in nutrient and other conditions for the growth of plants. Present information does not warrant a prediction as to how widely a water culture method may find practical application for crop production. The maintenance of favorable nutrient solutions requires periodic study of the factors that affect plant growth, cause malnutrition or support diseases. The necessity for changing the nutrient solution to meet the needs of individual crops calls for physical and chemical analyses, continued control and adjustments of culture solutions, and knowledge of elementary principles of ecology and plant physiology. It is concluded, therefore, that the growth of natural vegetation and of garden vegetables or other agricultural crops in water culture is still in the experimental stage, and is not yet ready for practical applications or as a commercial venture."

Hamilton Arboretum To give students of landscape architecture an opportunity for first hand study of plants and gardens the old estate of the Alexander Hamilton family at Irvington, N. Y. is to be transformed into a multiple-garden arboretum, described as "one of the few of its kind in the country." Work will begin shortly by the Department of Landscape Architecture of Columbia University, which owns the property, according to Professor Hugh Findlay, who will direct the work. When completed, the sixty-eight-acre development will comprise a series of gardens showing arrangements of specific types of plants but blended into a complete unit. It will be known as the Hamilton Arboretum. (New York Times.)

Chlorophyll Measurement "A device for measuring the concentrations of chlorophyll with an accuracy of one part in 10,000,000 has been perfected by Dr. Earl S. Johnston, of the Division of Radiation and Organisms, Smithsonian Institution," says Science Digest (April). "The device depends upon the use of a thermocouple, hitherto chiefly known because of its use by astronomers... There are two kinds of chlorophyll, A and B, which absorb slightly different wave lengths of light. Thus far, Dr. Johnston says, it has not been possible with this apparatus to make independent measurements of each variety, but this may become feasible through development of the new method. With more accurate knowledge of chlorophyll concentrations it will be possible to measure more precisely the amounts of solar energy which enter into the photosynthesis process and also the reactions of the other elements."

Senate, Agreed to the House amendment to S. 660, to provide
Mar. 7 for reapportionment of cotton acreage allotments not planted by farmers entitled thereto. This bill will now be sent to the President.

The Senate disagreed to the action of the House on the insect control item in H.R. 2868, first deficiency appropriation bill for 1939. Conferencees were appointed in each House for a further conference. The Senate has increased the original House figure from \$2,000,000 to \$5,417,000. The item was reported from conference in disagreement and the House voted to change the amount to \$2,250,000, to which the Senate refused to agree.

House, Continued debate on the reorganization bill, H.R.
Mar. 7 4425, and began reading the bill for amendment. Mr. Cox inserted in the Record the decision of the Supreme Court on the tobacco inspection act, which, he said, indicated that the powers delegated in the reorganization bill are not unconstitutional. Mr. Burdick spoke in favor of H.Res 25, providing for investigation of the need for further legislation to regulate future trading.

The Committee on Disposition of Executive Papers reported a list of papers in the Department of Agriculture to be disposed of (H.Rept. 131).

(Omitted from report of March 6) Received a letter from the Acting Secretary of Agriculture transmitting a proposed bill to provide for agreements of indemnity to banks paying the U.S. moneys to cover checks or drafts issued by such banks payable to the United States which have been lost or destroyed; to Com. on Expenditures in Executive Departments.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

New Meat Packaging An article in Food Industries (March) reports a new method of packaging meat carcasses. "Instead of leaving the hide on," says a note, "the carcass is tightly wrapped and put into a paper bag. The meat is trademarked before packaging by application of cellulose strips. Not only does this practice preserve the bloom, odor and flavor of meat, but it provides a more attractive product. Moreover, there are savings in cost."

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

March 10, 1939

BRAZILIAN TRADE PACT

"A broad series of commercial and financial agreements for expansion of trade was concluded between Brazil and the United States yesterday through an exchange of notes between Secretary Hull and Oswaldo Aranha, the Brazilian Foreign Minister," reports Bertram D. Hulen in the New York Times. "In the opinion of diplomatic observers it marked the successful culmination of one of the most important missions conducted by a South American statesman for many years. In one particular, a decision of Brazil to free its exchange market, State Department officials considered it one of the most important financial and economic measures taken on the Western Hemisphere in recent times. It indicated that Brazil considered the quickest route to established economic recovery was through maintenance of a free exchange market..."

MILK TRUST CHARGED

Federal Trade Commission economists yesterday contended before the Monopoly Committee that "monopolistic control" by a few nation-wide corporations had enabled distributors to collect an increasing share of the nation's milk dollar at the expense of farmers and consumers. Frederic C. Howe, who directed the commission's presentation of testimony, told the committee that entrance of "big business" into the dairying industry about 15 years ago had brought lower prices for milk on the farm and higher prices for the consumer. He named the National Dairy Products Company and the Borden Company as the two principal corporations who "with three other big companies and the meat packers of Chicago dominate this industry if they do not pretty completely control it." Howe presented a table to show that in 1923, when these companies were said to have started acquiring pasteurizing plants and distributing systems, the farmer's share in the consumer's dollar was 52 cents, compared with 35 cents in 1933. In the same period, he said, the distributor's share rose proportionately. (A.P.)

COTTON BILL APPROVED

The Senate Agriculture Committee approved yesterday without a dissenting vote a bill by Senator Smith which would guarantee cotton producers 12 cents a pound for their crops, but leave a loophole whereby non-producers could buy and resell at a profit some of the 11,000,000 bales of surplus cotton held by the government as security for loans. In reporting the bill, the committee adopted a resolution that the price of cotton must be maintained at the loan level, else "an undesirable quantity of this year's crop will be forced under government loan during the approaching marketing season." (New York Times.)

Holstein-
Friesians A milestone in dairy breed progress was reached recently at Brattleboro, Vt., when the Holstein-Friesian Association of America issued registration certificate No. 2,000,000 for a Holstein-Friesian female. No other breed of cattle, either dairy or beef, reports the Extension Department of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, has closely approached this record. Her predecessor in this bovine numbers game came in 1925, when No. 1,000,000 Holstein-Friesian female was registered, just forty years after the present herd book was started. Dauntless Direct Leseyla Ruth 2000000, which is the official name of "Miss Two Millionth," is a daughter of the Shaw herd sire, Baker Farm Dauntless 668530. The Shaw herd has been on continuous test for production in the Holstein Herd Test for the past eleven years, and has made the excellent average of 431 pounds fat per year for the period. (Pacific Rural Press, March 4.)

Fertilizer "The time may not be far distant when fertilizer
for Fish manufacturers will add a new, recommended use for their product--the growing of fish," says Donald L. Robertson, Editor, Extension Service, Alabama, in Better Crops with Plant Food (February). "Tests conducted in Alabama during the past 4 years have shown that as much as 580 pounds of fish per acre of pond can be produced annually by proper fertilization. As with cotton, corn, and other crops, these tests have proven that fish ponds also need a balanced fertilizer for maximum results. Comparatively little has been said about this new use of fertilizer, and yet the principle is simple. The fertilizers feed small plants, some microscopic, which in turn furnish food for the fish. These plants float through the water, and if present in sufficient amounts, give the water a light green or brown color. In addition, these plants are eaten directly by several species of fish and also furnish food for insects, tadpoles, crawfish, and other small animals upon which the fish feed. The abundance of these plants can be increased by the use of balanced fertilization, and the increase in plants will in turn increase the pounds of fish produced per acre. There are hundreds of ponds over the South which, while devoted to fish raising, are sadly lacking in fertility. Ranging from 'mud puddles' to lakes, these ponds offer water for fish to swim in, but little if any food...H. S. Swingle, fish culturist of the Alabama Experiment Station, found that unfertilized ponds produced from 100 to 200 pounds of fish per acre, and properly fertilized ones produced as high as 580 pounds per acre...The most profitable mixture he has found for each application per acre of water is 5 pounds muriate of potash, 40 pounds of sulphate of ammonia, 60 pounds superphosphate, 30 pounds basic slag or 15 pounds ground limestone. The same results were obtained when the fertilizers were applied separately and when mixed just before they were applied..."

Government Beef Grading "...Government beef grading has now been in effect for practically a dozen years," says an editorial in the American Cattle Producer (March). "It has grown steadily, is enthusiastically endorsed by the great majority of producers, and is being more and more demanded by consumers wherever they are organized...Unless there is better co-operation by the large packers, compulsory beef grading is eventually inevitable. It has been a remarkable success at Seattle, the only place in the country where it has had a real and long-continued trial. Vancouver, Victoria, and New Westminster, British Columbia, all have recently imposed compulsory grading under conditions, very similar to those obtaining in Seattle. In fact, they are basing their effort largely upon the Seattle plan, after some experimentation with voluntary grading systems in parts of the Canadian empire. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, beef grading is here to stay..."

Community Meat Packing An activity fostered by the U.S. Farm Security Administration, and welcomed by Lower Rio Grande farmers, is the establishment in this area of community refrigeration and meat curing plants. Arrangements have been completed for the first one. The membership now numbers 57 farmers, each of whom has borrowed from the administration, or has paid in cash, \$50.00, making in the aggregate a sum approximating \$3,000, which is the estimated cost of the building and equipment. Capacity will be for a thousand head of beeves or hogs or both, and provision will be made for forty days' storage. The supervisor will sell for the farmers whatever part of the cured hog meat and the beef they desire to sell, the expectation being that they will want to retain about forty percent for home use and will put the remaining sixty percent on the market. The proprietors of numerous meat shops have already indicated that they will be glad to retail the product. The fifty dollar loans to the farmer-members are repayable in three years at five percent annual interest. It is believed that these advances will be liquidated by dividends from meat sales a considerable time before they are due. Costs to be deducted from credits to the members are 50 cents per head for killing, 2.5 cents a pound for curing pork, 1.5 cents a pound for cooling and selling beef or pork. (Texas Farming and Citriculture, March.)

New 4-H Magazine "4-H Horizons" is the name of a new magazine which appeared at the first of the year. One of the editors is Dr. C. B. Smith who has lately retired from service as assistant director of extension in the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington after 42 years of service. The new magazine is dedicated to the young people of the 4-H Clubs and the issues which have appeared contain many articles of real interest from 4-H leaders throughout the country. The book is beautifully gotten up with good pictures, lively cartoons and excellent make-up. (Market Growers Journal, March.)

Senate, Considering bills on the calendar, passed the follow-
Mar. 8 ing: S. 1363, to repeal section 101 (c) (4) (farm acreage
 allotments) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938;
S. 1098, authorizing advances for crop insurance in drought areas; S. 518,
to provide for further development of extension work (\$500,000 annually).
The following bills were passed over: S. 685, to create a Division of
Water Pollution Control; S. 902, to amend the act authorizing detail of
U.S. employees to foreign countries; S. 1706, the Byrd reorganization bill.
Mr. Lee submitted an amendment which he intends to propose to S. 1405,
to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to regulate commerce in wheat
and cotton and providing for orderly marketing of such commodities at
fair prices. Mr. Bilbo submitted amendments which he intends to propose
to S. 572, to provide for stocks of strategic raw materials for national
defense.

House, The House passed H.R. 4425, the reorganization bill.
Mar. 8 The following amendments were agreed to: by Mr. Ludlow,
 prohibiting the establishment of any new department; by
Mr. Warren, requiring the President to submit a statement of probable
savings resulting from any reorganization plan; by Mr. Smith of Va., pro-
viding that no reorganization shall continue a function beyond its previ-
ous period of life. An amendment by Mr. Mott, exempting the Forest Ser-
vice from the bill's provisions, was rejected.

The Committee on Appropriations reported H.R. 4852, Interior Depart-
ment Appropriation Bill for 1940 (H.Rept. 161).

The conference report on H.R. 2868, First Deficiency Appropriation
Bill, was submitted to the House. This report places the item for in-
sect control at \$3,000,000.

Received a supplemental estimate of appropriation for the Department
for pink bollworm control, \$460,000 (to be matched by state funds)
(H.Doc. 201); ref. to Com. on Appropriations.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Pine Post "Dr. Craighead and his associates in the Bureau of
Protection Entomology and Plant Quarantine have developed a method
 of treating green pine timbers that make them resistant
to insect damage and fungus decays when used for fence posts, sills, or
rough construction in contact with the ground, and rustic work for furni-
ture, cabins and bridges," says the Southern Planter (March). "The
method is simple and inexpensive and seems destined to revolutionize the
use of pine on farms of the South. Tests with a number of chemicals in-
dicate that, after 10 years in the ground, posts and poles of treated
materials are still in a perfect state of preservation...Chemical analyses
of cross sections of this treated material show that the sapwood is im-
pregnated with the chemicals, such as copper sulphate or zinc chloride,
in concentrations ranging from one-half to 1 1/2 pounds per cubic foot.
The green standing trees can be treated by any one of several methods
that involve the complete severance of the conducting tissue of the stem
and the use of the living top, namely: stepping, banding, capping, and
applying a collar..."

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Vol. LXXII, No. 49

Section 1

March 13, 1939

AFBF OFFERS EXPORT PLAN

Opposing "still further reduction in cotton acreage allotments," the American Farm Bureau Federation has laid before President Roosevelt a \$75,000,000 export subsidy program to bring about gradual liquidation of the 11,250,000 bales now held by the Federal Government under commodity loans. The Federation's program, including a statement of opposition to the \$200,000,000 Smith bill reported by the Senate Agriculture Committee last week, was outlined to President Roosevelt by Edward A. O'Neal, president, and Earl C. Smith, executive committeeman. The Federation, largest and most influential of the farm organizations, proposed in substance that the government be authorized to take title to the cotton it now holds under loans by paying borrowing producers for their equity in the warehoused staple, which then would be marketed through normal commercial channels in the world's markets for something less than the domestic price. No attempt would be made, according to Federation spokesmen, to market all the supply in one year. (New York Times.)

IND. FOOD, DRUG LAW

State regulations based on the federal food, drug and cosmetic act became law in Indiana last week, marking the first state action of its kind, says a report in the New York Times. The bill, which enacts a draft of a uniform measure drawn up by Charles Wesley Dunn, general counsel of the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, was recommended by Governor Townsend, who pointed out that Indiana had no regulations controlling "dangerous drugs, cosmetics and therapeutic devices." In drug and cosmetic circles the belief was expressed that a number of other states would take similar action between now and June 25 when the federal act becomes fully effective.

SURPLUS WHEAT FOR RELIEF

The Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has been authorized to buy up to 315,000 more barrels of whole wheat graham flour and 180,000 more of whole wheat-breakfast cereal for relief distribution, the Department of Agriculture announces. The goods, representing 1,750,000 bushels of wheat, will be bought from mills all over the country on the basis of their offers. Since June 1938, the amount sought for relief has amounted to 2,700,000 barrels of wheat flour, 268,900 barrels of whole wheat graham flour and 203,600 barrels of whole wheat cereal. This represents 13,000,000 bushels of wheat. (Press.)

Fertilizer Placement "Vegetable growers are showing interest in a new transplanter which provides further advantages in band-way fertilizer placement," says Pennsylvania Farmer (March 11). "This transplanter, made in one and two-row sizes, permits the placement of fertilizer in 'broken bands' for longer spaced plants, effecting a substantial savings in the cost of fertilizer used. The bands are applied ten inches in length on each side of the plant at the time it is 'set'. By the new feature, one fertilizer band may be placed at the usual depth and the other band may be dropped lower. This provides a plant food reserve for later utilization. By this method it is customary to use a 25 percent application in the upper band and a 75 percent application in the lower band. Thus the bulk of the plant food is placed where the moisture is greater, and nearer the root growth as the roots strike deeper. The roots are brought into contact with a greater area of soil and are able to utilize more of the soil moisture. In addition to transplanters, this new fertilizer placement equipment is available for use with some types of vegetable and potato planters."

Missouri Wildlife "Few state agencies have been accorded the wholesale support given Missouri's Conservation Commission," says Missouri Ruralist (March 4). "All over Missouri the local county units of the state association are doing excellent work. The change in attitude has made nearly everyone conservation-minded. Instead of indifference we see farmers, although they do not care to hunt, strongly behind efforts to protect wildlife. Hunters have acquired a new respect for rules and regulations, not because they fear the law but because it is realized that these same rules and regulations are necessary to the goal in sight. What has been mapped out by Missouri's commission has stood the test in other localities. Pennsylvania, for instance, has done so well with deer protection that the animals were making farming precarious for many landowners. So last fall that state removed the restrictions on killing un-antlered deer. The 'take' was around 50,000 deer in a state that once was nearly devoid of them. Here in Missouri the sowing of lespedeza for pasture and hay and as a soil-conservation measure has provided quail the greatest source of feed the birds have ever had. Not only is lespedeza seed good food, but it stays on the plants until spring. The soil conservation work is helping provide water. Cheap shelters eliminate the necessity of weedy and unsightly fence rows if a farmer wishes to provide suitable cover..."

Refrigerator Quick Frozen Foods (February) reports that there is now on the market a domestic refrigerator with a spacious fast freezing compartment guaranteeing from 5 to 10 degrees below zero.

Refrigeration
in Transit

D. F. Fisher, Bureau of Plant Industry, writes in Quick Frozen Foods (February) on "Precooling and the Refrigeration of Fruits and Vegetables." Reporting tests of the Department on transit refrigeration for fruits and vegetables, he says it was found that "equally good transit temperatures were secured with upper half bunker icing (in refrigerator cars) as with full bunker icing and that precooled oranges at least could be delivered in satisfactory condition with only one reicing in transit. It was also shown that the rate of air movement, as measured by electric anemometers, was more rapid with upper half bunker icing than with full bunker icing but that with the latter more rapid cooling occurred than when the ice was confined to the lower half of the bunker. Thus another way seems to be opening for a further reduction in refrigeration costs although a reduced rate has not yet been put into effect. However, since their refrigeration rates are based in large part on the quantity of ice which they furnish and have to haul, it is reasonable to expect that a reduction will ultimately bring a reduction in the charge imposed. This latest modification of transit refrigeration practice was tried for the first time last year on pears. The results were entirely satisfactory but the pears had been thoroughly precooled and the test was made during the fall when outside temperatures were cool so an extreme test was not provided. It is possible this may prove to be another step in the improvement of transit refrigeration practices whereby greater efficiency is obtainable at less cost..."

Senate,
Mar. 9

Mr. Taft submitted amendments he intends to propose to S. 1718, for eradication of Dutch elm disease; to Com. on Agriculture and Forestry.

The Senate adjourned until Monday, March 13.

House,
Mar. 9

Began debate on H.R. 4352, Interior Department Appropriation Bill, 1940. Speeches were made as follows: by Mr. Kleberg, favoring an appropriation for pink bollworm control (he inserted in the Record material on the subject prepared by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine); by Mr. Crawford, favoring pink bollworm control, criticising administration of the Virgin Islands in connection with sugar production and criticising the new plans of the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation; by Mr. Hook, charging irregularities in expenditure of federal funds at Michigan State College in agricultural work; by Mr. Carter, supporting the reclamation activities of the federal government.

Agreed to the conference report on H.R. 2868, First Deficiency Appropriation Bill, 1939. This report provides that the amount for insect control will be \$3,000,000.

Received a letter from the Acting Secretary of Agriculture transmitting a draft of a bill to amend the act of April 26, 1926, fixing the fees of jurors and witnesses; to Com. on Judiciary.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Hayfever
Prevention

Natural History (March) contains "Weeds, Waste and Hayfever" by R. P. Wodehouse. The article is accompanied by photographs, drawings and three charts showing pollen areas in the United States for three seasons of the year. "Hayfever," says a note, "is a man-made disease, preventable through conservation measures which every citizen should take to heart for the general betterment and beautification of our native land." The last paragraph says: "To permit the return of all soil to its natural conditions is not compatible with civilization nor with human progress in any form. But there is an alternative and that is to cultivate the land intensively. You do not see hayfever weeds growing in city parks, in properly kept gardens, in well-managed farms nor, in fact, anywhere that the soil is put to its legitimate use and economically managed. For, however regarded, weeds represent waste. Nature demands that the land be clothed. If we do not like the weeds of her choosing we may select our own. For example, if it becomes necessary to strip the land of its protective cover we may sow a cover crop before the natural weeds can take possession...The correction of uneconomical misuses of the soil is strictly in accordance with the principles of land conservation and with the highest development of civilization and the use of our continent. The best prevention of hayfever is to leave the land unmolested or to cultivate it properly and make it pay dividends. Anything between means weeds, waste and hayfever."

Farm
Tenancy

"Growth of farm tenancy in the United States in recent years is causing concern among those who recognize the evils in such a tendency," says an editorial in the Montana Farmer (March 1). "The Bankhead-Jones farm tenancy act demonstrates the possibilities in encouraging tenants to acquire ownership, but the funds provided under it are limited...Perhaps this desirable federal program can be expanded, but in the meantime some of the individual states are moving to attack the problem in a different way. Farm leaders in California are planning to introduce a bill in the next session of the state legislature which, if enacted, would impose a special state tax on the holders of more than 10 farms. Its aim is to discourage multiple holdings and get the land back into the hands of dirt farmers. A bill will be introduced in the Iowa legislature requiring corporations to sell all farms obtained in foreclosures within two years. Principal landowners in Montana and other states are insurance companies, mortgage companies, commercial banks and the federal land banks. In Montana the railroads are also important landholders. Directors of land-holding corporations will do well to study the tenant-purchase plan embodied in the Bankhead-Jones act. It should be possible for such institutions to develop similar programs through which some of their tenants could achieve ownership."

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

March 14, 1939

FOOD SCRIP PROGRAM

The National Food and Grocery Conference Committee unanimously approved yesterday the plan of the Department of Agriculture to experiment in six cities with disposal of surplus farm commodities to the needy through private enterprise by issues of government scrip. Secretary Wallace, who put the plan before the wholesale and retail grocers in the committee, then announced he would put it into effect soon. It is hoped to start it about April 15 in the first of six cities, none of which have yet been picked, and extend it gradually to the others, with its future thereafter depending on the results achieved. The plan is to give every person now receiving public assistance (including WPA wages) who desires to participate, orange stamps instead of money to the value of the amount he now normally spends on food, and a premium in blue stamps amounting to half that amount. That is, if he spends \$4 on food now, he would get \$4 in orange stamps from the government and \$2 in blue ones. (New York Times.)

MILK ORDER APPEAL

The Department of Agriculture announced yesterday that it had formally asked the Department of Justice to appeal directly to the United States Supreme Court the Federal court decision on February 23 invalidating the Federal milk marketing order in the New York metropolitan marketing area. The lower court's decision, rendered at Albany by Federal Judge Frank Cooper, involved efforts to the government to enjoin four milk handlers from violating the terms of the order. The order establishes minimum prices to producers and provides a method for making payments to dairy farmers through a producer settlement fund. The court not only held the order invalid but declared unconstitutional certain provisions of the agricultural marketing agreement act of 1937 under which the program was developed. (New York Times.)

INTERSTATE TRADE CONFERENCE

The Council of State Governments announced yesterday a national conference to attack the problems of interstate trade barriers would be held in Chicago April 5 to 7 inclusive. Scores of governors, state legislators, federal and state administrative officials, are expected to attend the conference, the announcement said. Interstate trucking regulations, food and building laws and various types of legislation classed by the council as "discriminatory" will be considered. (A.P.).

Reorganization The February Journal of Farm Economics contains the
in Department Proceedings of the American Farm Economic Association.
 John D. Black, of Harvard University, discussing H. R.
Tolley's paper on the Department reorganization, says in part: "The new
development in the Department of Agriculture described in Mr. Tolley's
paper is of great significance. It means that for the first time there
has been provided in the federal government an agency setup of the farm
needed to enable the professional economists there to function as the
'general staff,' to choose a term from military parlance, and work with
the actual operators in the planning and directing of the collective ac-
tion of the current year and day. Equally as vital, it provides for bring-
ing into collaboration with this staff in Washington a sort of general
staff in each of the states, to whose functioning the professional agri-
cultural economists should contribute in large measure. In the state part
of this national setup particularly, the foremost men of action and in-
tellectual leadership among the farm operators are expected to join forces
with the professional group. If these operators function as in the past,
they will furnish the real drive toward action programs."

Career "Too little attention has been given to the hopeful
Service steps taken during recent weeks toward creation of a career
 service for the federal government," says an editorial in
the Washington Post (March 13). "...As it has operated to date in this
country the merit system has served chiefly to protect federal jobs from
the spoilsmen. That, of course, is an important accomplishment. But it
does little to guarantee a high degree of efficiency in the government
service...President Roosevelt is manifesting a great deal of interest in
modernization of the merit system. Both his special committee to set up
standards for a real career service and his Council of Personnel Admin-
istration may be relied upon to recommend the best practices in person-
nel management. The committee is headed by Justice Stanley Reed of the
Supreme Court and the council by Dr. Frederick M. Davenport, head of the
Institute of Public Affairs. It will be the task of these two agencies
to introduce a greater element of merit into the merit system. In these
days of widespread governmental activities, calling for technical skill
of many varieties as well as administrative ability, it is not enough to
abolish political tests of fitness. Ways and means must be found to bring
into the federal service men and women specially trained for and adapted
to the tasks assigned to them. And they must be given assurance of fair
treatment, of advancement in accord with the quality of service rendered
and of sufficient pay to make a career in government work attractive."

Cosmetics The March American Mercury contains "The Paint and
 Powder Racket" by Lois Mattox Miller. It describes the
\$400,000,000 cosmetic industry. The new food, drug and cosmetic act, the
author believes, will do away with an "abuse of the public trust by the
cosmetics trade," by requiring that future labels state clearly the vol-
ume or weight in ounces of the packages' net contents.

**AAA Reports
Progress**

The New York Times, reviewing the report of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (from January 1, 1937, to June 30, 1938, says that complete figures on the results of the program are included in the report, which says that in that year the plan was applied to 282,629,000 acres, or almost 65 percent of the total crop land in the United States. The number of owner-operators, tenants and landlords taking part in the program was 3,743,904. The number of farms participating was 3,020,037. Farmers participating in the 1937 program diverted 26,362,538 acres from soil-depleting crops, almost 13 percent of the normal or base acreage of such crops on the participating farms. For improvement of their soil by diversion from soil-depleting crops and carrying out soil-building practices, under the 1937 program, cooperating farmers were paid \$306,744,000. The average payment was \$81.93. The report pointed out that farm cash income for the calendar year 1937 was \$8,600,000,000, compared with \$7,944,000,000 in 1936 and \$4,328,000,000 in 1932. The 1937 income was the highest for any year since 1929 and was almost double the 1932 level. It compared with the 1938 cash farm income of \$7,632,000,000. Soil-conservation payments in 1937 amounted to approximately \$367,000,000. A large part of the payments disbursed in 1937 was earned by compliance with the program of 1936, and a large part of payments earned in 1937 was disbursed in 1938 and consequently was not included in 1937 cash income. (New York Times.)

**Farm Labor
School**

"Uncle Sam is sponsoring a school for farm hands," says an editorial in the Jackson (Miss.) News (March 4).

"...This school is cooperatively undertaken by the National Youth Administration, the State Department of Education and the State Teachers College of Arizona. Near Temple, 67 boys are setting up buildings. Many of the students will come from farm families, but from those so situated that they never had a chance to learn anything but cotton picking or similar low-paid seasonal labor. To teach them something of farm work in general may well fit them for better jobs."

**Tractor
Testing**

"Tractor testing devices which show the amount of horsepower being developed and the rate of fuel consumption per hour are being used over Iowa this winter in demonstrations staged by the Iowa Extension Service," says Wallaces' Farmer (March 11). "A brake contrivance determines the horsepower output of the tractor engine while running normally. Fuel consumption, expressed in gallons per hour, is registered by means of a fuel meter, much as a speedometer shows miles per hour. Using these two devices, the Extension Service demonstrators show the effect of different motor adjustments on power and fuel requirements. They also can compare different types of fuel for use in tractors. E. V. Collins, Iowa State College engineer, invented the special brake and fuel meter."

Watermelon

The Hawkesbury, a new watermelon variety that is resistant to wilt, is now commercially available. Under test for several years in Virginia, it has proven to be of good size and high quality. (Farm Journal, April.)

Sorghums
in Texas

"The Texas Experiment Station, with the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, made an epoch-marking contribution to agriculture when they introduced and popularized sorghum," says Texas Farming and Citriculture (March). "These agencies are continuing to serve growers of these crops by developing improved strains and varieties of sorghum which are more desirable than some of the older varieties, because of their greater yielding capacity, increased resistance to diseases and insects or because of their greater nutritive value...Portions of South Texas have become important commercial grain producing areas because of the adaptability of grain sorghums to conditions in that region. Early maturing varieties developed by the Texas Station make it possible to produce two crops in a single year, and the quantity of forage which can be produced is almost unlimited. By combining the grain and drying it in commercial dehydration plants, it is possible to get the early spring crop on the market at a time when supplies of carryover grain are low and prices are relatively high..."

House,
Mar. 10

Continued debate on H.R. 4852, Interior Department
Appropriation Bill, 1940.

The following bills were reported without amendment from the Committee on Agriculture: H.J.Res. 188, authorizing delegation of authority to the Director of Finance, Department of Agriculture, to sign requisitions for funds (H.Rept. 188); H.J.Res. 189, to define the status and duties of the Under Secretary of Agriculture (H.Rept. 189); S. 1098, to amend the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act by authorizing advances for crop insurance (H.Rept. 190).

The House adjourned until Monday, March 13. (The Senate was not in session.)

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Brazilian
Agreement

"The agreement reached between the United States and Brazil, the largest of our South American neighbors, promises great advantages for both countries," says an editorial in the New York Times (March 11). "It will stimulate the flow of trade in both directions. It will encourage Brazil to make still more use of its rich agricultural resources. It will help to create for the United States an American source of supply for essential commodities that cannot be produced under our own climatic and economic conditions. It will greatly strengthen the financial position of Brazil by permitting that country to get gold for its Central Reserve Bank. It will help American investors in Brazilian dollar bonds by providing for temporary resumption of service on those bonds. But the importance of the agreement extends beyond its immediate tangible benefits. It is a victory for the good neighbor policy and a forerunner, let us hope, of similar agreements with other of our South and Central American neighbors. For the decision of Brazil to free its exchange market, with our help...marks a move away from the path that leads to authoritarian economy and back to the path of free economy. As such it is a happy augury for the democratic way of life in this hemisphere."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 51

Section 1

March 15, 1939

NEW ENGLAND New England pushed a preparedness campaign yesterday
FIRE PROTECTION against a heavily stressed spring-time danger of sweeping forest fires in the vast stretches of tangled woodland left by last September's hurricane, says a Boston report by the Associated Press. Given an extension of time by a heavy blanket of snow over the entire Northeast, executives of all six states awaited President Roosevelt's action on a \$5,000,000 appropriation just passed by Congress for fire prevention in a wide swath of timber stretching from Long Island Sound to the Canadian border. Massachusetts will maintain 24-hour watches in lookout towers until danger is past. The New Hampshire American Legion set up disaster mobilization machinery, including flood or fire. That state also inaugurated an educational program, furnishing instructions in forest-fire fighting. Rhode Island fire-fighting operations were coordinated under the direction of Murton K. Harris, director of agriculture and conservation. Vermont concentrated on removal of fallen timber.

REORGANIZATION, With only minor alterations, the Senate Committee on
RETIREMENT Reorganization yesterday favorably reported to the Senate the modified Warren-Cochran government reorganization bill passed last week by the House. Senator Byrnes of South Carolina asked Senate consideration of the bill today. One major obstacle remained in the path of the bill--the Wheeler amendment, requiring approval by both Houses of Congress of any reorganization plan submitted by the President.

The Senate yesterday, for the second time, passed the Neely bill to amend the civil service retirement act. Action was unanimous. The bill provides in brief: for the reduction of retirement ages for the several classes from 68, 63 and 60 to 64, 60 and 58; three 1-year extensions of appointments beyond the retirement age when desired by the employee and approved by the Civil Service Commission; that the employees' contribution to the retirement fund shall be increased from 3 1/2 to 4 percent; permits employees to deposit additional amounts of between 1 and 10 percent for the purchase of additional annuities; that disabled employees may be kept on retirement rolls for 12 months after complete recovery instead of 90 days as at present. (Washington Post.)

NEW YORK MILK The Department of Agriculture abandoned temporarily
REGULATION yesterday its six-month effort to regulate the marketing of milk in the New York metropolitan area. A formal announcement by the department said that the federal marketing program, affecting 60,000 dairymen in seven states, was suspended as of February 1, pending the outcome of an appeal to the Supreme Court from a lower court decision holding the program unconstitutional. (A.P.)

Electrical Appliances A report from the Washington Business Week bureau says in the March 11 issue that some 8,000 farm customers of 10 rural electrification cooperatives in Iowa are being subjected to an intensive appliance sales campaign. What holds up consumption of electricity on farms, it says, is apparently the simultaneous necessity of wiring the farm buildings, buying fixtures, and acquiring appliances. The farmer has a natural tendency to hold these expenses to a minimum, even though he may fully intend to add to his electrical equipment in future. This is true despite the fact low-cost financing has been available through Electric Home and Farm Authority ever since the REA program started. So the problem becomes one of reducing these costs. The plan gets its initial tryout in the current Iowa experiment, where installed costs will be slashed by 25 to 35% in an effort to prove that the resulting volume will more than make up for the lower margins. Household equipment will get the bulk of sales effort, REA will be prominently in the picture but there is no disposition to short-circuit the trade; on the contrary, it will be given the limelight in the hope that, if the experiment proves a success, most of the promotion work can be turned over to private business when the plan is transplanted to other regions.

Wheat Crop Insurance "A fair test of Government crop insurance for wheat farmers will be made this year, despite the reluctance expressed by many growers to pay the premiums asked," says an editorial in the New York Journal of Commerce (March 11). "The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation reports that almost 300,000 applications had been received from farmers by March 1, approximately one-third of which were from the spring wheat belt...More than 120,000 farmers have already turned in 3,858,000 bushels of wheat for this purpose. These premiums will insure some 40,000,000 bushels of this year's wheat crop... The demand for insurance has been particularly great from areas where adverse growing conditions caused crop failures in recent years, even though higher premium is required in such cases. An exceptionally large number of farmers in North Dakota, for example, have applied for insurance, reflecting their adverse experiences with repeated crop failures in recent years. The success of wheat crop insurance, like that of any other insurance plan, depends upon including a sufficiently large number of risks of a diversified character to hold down average losses to an amount that will be covered by the premiums received. The large number of applications received by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation from all over the wheat belt indicates that this requirement will be met in 1939, although rather more than a proportionate number of applications for insurance have come from the Northwest."

Photography "Recent developments in photography, including
in Education natural color film, photoflood and photoflash bulbs, fast
 films and lenses and exposure meters, combined with cor-
responding developments in simplifying and perfecting projection equip-
ment, provide the greatest vehicle for effective agricultural education
since the invention of the printing press," says Lester H. Hartwig,
assistant agricultural editor, Pennsylvania State College, in Agricultural
Leaders' Digest (March). "That is the claim of George F. Johnson,
specialist in visual instruction for the Agricultural Extension Division
of the Pennsylvania State College...The use of extremely fast film for
poorly lighted indoor subjects, and the astonishing results with natural
color film for outdoor subjects, has broadened the scope and increased
the effectiveness of photography in visual instruction many fold. Much
of the photographic work for agricultural extension teaching is now
being done in natural color, both for motion pictures and lantern slides.
Entire new fields of teaching have been opened by this development in
color reproduction. Recent improvements have made it possible to dupli-
cate color film...Slides and movies are not the only forms of visual
education used by agricultural extension workers. Tinted enlargements
have been found very valuable, especially for teaching about soil
erosion and its control. Soil erosion subjects frequently lack suffi-
cient contrast to make good black and white paper prints or lantern
slides. By tinting paper enlargements a more natural effect is obtained.
Few places offer greater possibilities for picture taking than the
farm..."

Shutters for "One of the most important new tractor developments
Tractors revealed at the Western Tractor Show recently was the
 large number of tractors now being equipped with metal
radiator shutters," says Implement & Tractor (March 4). "This new equip-
ment has been widely adopted by manufacturers because it affords complete
control of engine temperatures for maximum operating efficiency, regard-
less of the fuel used or the time of the year. The new shutters replace
the time-honored canvas curtain which was used so long as nothing better
was available, but which could be operated only by the driver leaving
his seat and walking around to the front of the tractor. The replace-
ment of the curtains by metal shutters comes as the inevitable result
of tests under all conditions of weather and with all types of fuels from
regular gasoline down to the heavy distillates. Among the advantages of
the new metal shutters are substantial savings in the fuel bills of
tractor owners. Through the more complete control of engine tempera-
tures, more efficient combustion is made possible. More power is ob-
tained from a given amount of fuel, and the more complete combustion
eliminates the principal source of oil dilution in the crankcase..."

March 15, 1939

Senate, Agreed to the additional conference report on H.R. 2868,
Mar. 13 First Deficiency Appropriation Bill for 1939. This bill,
which will now be sent to the President, contains the fol-
lowing items for this Department: Forest Service, national forest pro-
tection and management (White Mountain National Forest) \$500,000; New
England hurricane damage, \$5,000,000 (to be matched by states); Entomology
and Plant Quarantine, control of insect pests and plant diseases, \$3,000,-
000.

Agreed to the additional conference report on H.R. 3743, Independent
Offices Appropriation Bill for 1940, which will now be sent to the Presi-
dent.

Passed H.R. 4218, Legislative Appropriation Bill for 1940.

The Committee on Appropriations reported with amendments H.R. 4492,
Treasury-Post Office Appropriation Bill for 1940. Mr. O'Mahoney submitted
an amendment which he intends to propose to this bill, denying the frank-
ing privilege to government publications the sending of which has not been
requested and is not required by law.

The following bills were reported without amendment from the Commit-
tee on Agriculture and Forestry: S. 1303 (Smith bill) to amend the Agri-
cultural Adjustment Act of 1938 with respect to cotton (S.Rept. 164);
S. 69, relating to the apportionment of shares of the sugar crop for 1939
and 1940 (S.Rept. 161); S. 1209, to extend the time for retirement of
cotton pool participation trust certificates (S.Rept. 165).

House, The Committee on Agriculture reported the following
Mar. 13 bills without amendment: H.R. 3801, to extend the time
for retirement of cotton pool participation trust certifi-
cates (H.Rept. 196); H.R. 2378, to prohibit exportation of tobacco seed
and plants, except for experimental purposes (H.Rept. 197); H.R. 3955,
to amend section 335 (d) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938
(marketing quotas for wheat) (H.Rept. 200); H.R. 57, to provide for use
of net weights in transactions in cotton; to provide for standardization
of bale covering for cotton (H.Rept. 201).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Civil Service The Civil Service Commission announces the following
Examinations examinations: No. 32, unassembled, principal consultant
in child labor, \$5600; senior consultant in child labor,
\$4600; consultant in child labor, \$3800; associate consultant in child
labor, \$3200; assistant consultant in child labor, \$2600; optional sub-
jects--1, child labor administration, 2, statistical research, 3, re-
search in employment problems of minors; Children's Bureau, Department
of Labor. Applications must be on file not later than the following dates:
(a) April 10, if received from states other than those in b; (b) April
13, if received from the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado,
Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 52

Section 1

March 16, 1939

FOREIGN TRADE EXPANSION

Further expansion of the foreign trade of the United States under the merchant marine act was predicted yesterday by Marshall L. Wilcox, director of operations and traffic, U. S. Maritime Commission. He declared: "There are still several foreign trades served by American ships, or which ought to be served by American ships, which have not been included in the construction and subsidy program...We hope before long we will be able to have an all-inclusive program for constructing vessels and subsidizing their operation in all important trade routes necessary for the maintenance of the position of the United States in foreign trade.

Hjalmar J. Crocope, newly appointed Finnish Minister to the United States, yesterday praised the results of the reciprocal trade agreement negotiated between Finland and the United States in 1936, pointing to what he termed a remarkable upward trend in commerce between the two countries. Sales to Finland by the United States, he said, had increased by nearly 50 percent and Finnish exports to this country by 15 to 18 percent, with further expansion possible. (New York Times.)

SUGAR QUOTAS REDUCED

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace announced yesterday a downward revision of sugar marketing and import quotas for 1939 from 6,832,157 to 6,755,386 short tons. Revised quotas for domestic and foreign producing areas entitled to sell sugar in American markets will be announced in a few days. The original quota has been described in production and marketing circles as "excessive" and has been held responsible for the sharp slump in raw sugar prices. The Department of Agriculture said further revisions might be made should they be deemed necessary by Mr. Wallace. Marketing authorities said reduction of quotas should have a bolstering effect on prices. (A.P.)

SCENTED GLADIOLUS

The development of a definitely sweet-smelling gladiolus, praised as "one of the outstanding achievements of horticulture of the past decade," was announced yesterday at the twenty-sixth annual International Flower Show in New York City. Several species of the scented flower were shown. The scented gladiolus was developed at the Boyce Thompson Institute under the supervision of Dr. Forman T. McLean, plant physiologist at the institute. The research has now reached the stage, Dr. McLean said, where gladioluses may be obtained in four scents. (New York Times.)

High Grade "A program that, if adopted by New York farmers,
Fertilizers should result in a saving of at least ten percent in the
 fertilizer bill for 1939 has been developed by the state
 college of agriculture and the fertilizer industry," says E. L. Worthen,
New York extension specialist in agronomy, in Agricultural Leaders'
Digest (March). "To be successful, the cooperation of farmers is needed.
The plan is to enable manufacturers to supply plant-food to growers at
a lower unit cost. Eleven different fertilizer ratios and double that
number of suggested analyses are approved by the college's agronomy de-
partment. The list supplies all ratios of plant-food needed where mixed
fertilizers should be used in the state. It strives to do away with the
more costly grades that some farmers insist upon and which industry is
obliged to supply. The industry has agreed to recommend the approved
analyses. The listed analyses contain at least 20% of plant-food, of
which at least 8% is nitrogen or potash, or both combined. Those listed
as preferred by the agricultural workers contain on the average about
30%. The higher concentration is recommended because it offers addi-
tional savings."

Pest Control The Farm Journal (April) in an item on pest control,
Machinery reports progress in spraying and dusting equipment.
 "Some of the sleek spray rigs of today develop 800 pounds
pressure," it says. "They are equipped with towers for orchardists,
are powered with new, high-speed gasoline engines. They roll easily on
rubber tires, even through mud. They work 24 hours a day when necessary,
because night lights provide candle power...Stationary spray rigs have also
been coming into their own. Located on high and dry ground they can
pump mixed sprays across boggy spring mud via underground pipes to out-
lets where spraymen can quickly hook on hoses. On the Pacific Coast,
orchardists have given stilts to their spraymen--collapsible spray
towers 30 feet or more high, which can be quickly raised and lowered
hydraulically by pressure of the spray material...University of Cali-
fornia engineers have developed a new fishtail duster (mounted on a
truck) that applies the dust underneath as well as on the outer foliage.
The fans whirl at 1,200 R.P.M., discharge 10,000 cubic feet of air per
minute at 65 miles per hour. Built in single and double-row machines,
they cover over 100 acres in a 24-hour day. A machine using air instead
of water, called a vaporduster, emits at 125 miles per hour a veritable
dust storm of finely divided spray liquid. In the still of the night
air it can do a lot of spraying in a hurry, sending out a vapor-fog on
both sides of the machine. Going a step further in vapor spraying,
agricultural engineers have turned to steam for applying fungicides and
insecticides to crops. The method looks promising, particularly for
fungicides. Tests indicate that these 'steamers' take only about one-
third as much water and fungicide for adequate coverage as standard
spray equipment."

Radio for The Federal Communications Commission has allocated
Forestry three new frequencies in the 2,000 to 3,000 kilocycle band
 (2212, 2236, 2244) for exclusive use in forestry service
in preventing and combating forest fires. This band is already shared by
police, government, ship, coastal harbor, aviation and relay broadcasting
stations. Previously, ten ultrahigh frequencies, in the 30,000 to 40,000
band, had been established for forestry use and the medium band frequency
of 2,726 kilocycles available for emergency service, was also made available
to forestry protective agencies. The ultrahigh frequencies were set up
for purposes of local communication and the medium frequency was for use
in emergencies in ordering supplies and fire-fighting equipment. The new
frequencies are available to anyone having a legal responsibility for the
protection of a forest. (Journal of Forestry, March.)

Research American City (March) reports that ten new agencies
Agencies for research in government--five of them state, four
 municipal and one regional--were established in 1938,
according to the Government Research Association. Of the state agencies,
two were set up in connection with universities--the Bureau of Public Ad-
ministration of the University of Alabama and the Institute of Local and
State Governments of the University of Pennsylvania. Two others estab-
lished were legislative councils, in Connecticut and Illinois. The re-
gional governmental research agency is the Northwest Regional Council,
serving the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. Localities
with new research agencies include Hartford, Connecticut, Newark, New
Jersey, Peoria, Illinois, Atlanta, Georgia. A unique plan to band to-
gether public administration research agencies within a single state was
put into effect during the year in Virginia, where a Council on Public
Administration was established. One chief purpose is to bring the re-
search resources of all the universities and colleges in the state to
bear upon problems of state and local government.

"Dairy World All phases of scientific dairy management, from
of Tomorrow" animal care to city plant operations, will be demonstrated
 at the New York World's Fair, known as the "Dairy World of
Tomorrow." Display of the finest selection of purebred dairy cattle is
made possible through participation of the breed associations, represent-
ing Jersey, Guernsey, Holstein-Friesian, Brown Swiss and Ayrshire. Plans
have been made for taking 150 of the finest dairy cattle of North America
to the fair. There will be an electrically operated rotolactor, or re-
volving platform, 35 feet in diameter, housed in a pavilion, twin parallel
barns connected with the rotolactor chamber by glass-walled runways through
which spectators may view the dairy cattle. From the rotolactor the milk
will be piped through stainless steel to the processing room; here, in
view of the spectators, it will be pasteurized, irradiated, bottled and
capped. (Creamery Journal, March.)

Bindweed Control Business Week (March 11) reports that "agricultural departments of every western state are now engaged in intensive campaigns to check the ^{bind}weed pest that has already taken a heavy toll from landowners...Most of the farm implement manufacturers have recently brought out special cultivators with duck-foot shares designed to cut bindweed roots off just below the ground. Ordinary disking will not do the trick. Cultivation must be carried on every two weeks during the growing season for three years...While some farm loan firms will shy away from a property with a trace of bindweed on it, most of them, including the Federal Land Bank at Wichita, Kansas, will consider loan applications if the owner agrees in writing to follow control measures recommended by federal-state weed laboratories. In making loans on infested farms, the Omaha Federal Land Bank makes doubly certain of eradication measures by setting aside a portion of the loan to be used for that purpose. Practically every western state has enacted some sort of bindweed control legislation. Considered a model, the Kansas law requires all property owners to clean their premises at their own expense. Counties may, with funds raised from special bindweed levies, furnish sodium chlorate to landowners at half cost. On the alert to stop spread of noxious weeds, seed inspection departments of several states report a sharp increase in the number of carlots of seed condemned because of bindweed contamination."

Senate, Passed H.R. 4492, Treasury-Post Office Appropriation
Mar. 14 Bill for 1940. The following amendments were agreed to:
by Mr. O'Mahoney, denying the franking privilege to government publications the sending of which has not been requested and is not authorized by law, except lists of agricultural bulletins and public documents for sale by GPO. The amendment was amended to except also publications sent to "educational institutions or public libraries or to federal, state or other public authorities;" by Mr. George, providing that not more than one half of the funds appropriated for purchase of twine by the Post Office Department may be expended for twine manufactured from foreign materials.

Both Houses received a message from the President again recommending an additional appropriation of \$150,000,000 for relief and work relief, fiscal year 1939 (H.Doc. 205).

Mr. Smith inserted in the Record a letter from Secretary Wallace opposing S. 69, relating to apportionment of shares of the 1939 and 1940 sugar crop, which was reported from the Committee on Agriculture and Forest March 13 (S.Rept. 161, pt.2).

Adjourned until Thursday, March 16.

House, Continued debate on H.R. 4852, Interior Department
Mar. 14 Appropriation Bill for 1940. Mr. Rich submitted an amendment to reduce the appropriation for Division of Grazing, charging that there is duplication in the work of this division and that of the Forest Service, but the amendment was defeated by a vote of 83 to 107.
(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 53

Section 1

March 17, 1939

DEMAND-PRICE SITUATION

A somewhat greater than seasonal rise in business activity, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics said yesterday, may be expected this spring and summer. In its current demand and price situation report, the bureau said an anticipated further increase in building operations and some additional increase in government expenditures should furnish the stimulus for the upturn. It added, however, that it seemed unlikely that there would be any marked increase in the total volume of industrial production. "The critical time will come," the report said, "when the impetus furnished by these factors is reduced." The bureau said failure of private capital to increase its investment might lead to another recession in the latter part of this year or the first part of 1940. "On the other hand, if private expenditures for producers' or capital goods gradually increase, the anticipated spring and summer rise could be the forerunner of a period of gradual improvement extending into 1940 at least." (A.P.).

FARM MORTGAGE BILL SPONSORED

Fifty-two Senators signed yesterday as sponsors a bill presented by Senator Lee authorizing the government to insure farm mortgages up to a maximum of \$1,000,000,000. The mortgage-insurance proposal, which Senator Lee said also had the endorsement of President Roosevelt, would enable tenant farmers, now operating 43 percent of all farms, to buy land without down payment and to repay loans over periods of twenty-five to forty years with interest at 3 percent. (New York Times.)

MEDICAL PATENTS

Closer regulation and control of medical patents, a question involving millions in money and touching the problem of public health, was the subject of a conference of delegates from 200 universities, hospitals and laboratories at the American Medical Association yesterday, says a Chicago report in the New York Times. One great national body which would integrate the regional and group controls of patented medical products, putting them to work in greater measure for the public welfare, was suggested by Dr. Earl S. Johnson, of the University of Chicago. F. Lorne Hutchison, of the University of Toronto, stated that the United States was the only great country that had no single regulation of patents on foods and drugs. Here they are controlled by special groups such as universities, research councils, drug houses, the government and foundations.

Manure For livestock and dairy farmers, a new piece of
Spreader equipment is the tractor-drawn manure spreader (steel or
 rubber-tired). These spreaders are driven from the rear
wheels (not by tractor power take-off). The front of the spreader is
supported by the tractor. The two-wheel spreader is more easily handled
when backing, or on short turns. The spreading mechanism can be started
or stopped from the tractor seat. Tractor can be unhitched by pulling
out the coupling pin, and without lifting the front end of the spreader.
(Farm Journal, April.)

School of The Farmer (St. Paul, March 11) contains an item on
Agriculture the School of Agriculture at the University of Minnesota
Farm. This school was established in 1888, and "is a
unique educational institution, being neither a high school nor a college,
but a folk school training in the most practical business of agriculture
and homemaking...Today the school is the largest of its kind, and many
similar institutions throughout this and foreign countries have been
patterned after it...The greatest contribution of the school has been
to train young men and women for places on the farm. Nearly all of the
students who have attended have returned to their farm homes to make
farming a life-work. Some have entered occupations closely affiliated
with agriculture or have gone on to take advanced work in technical
phases, but all learned to be good farmers or homemakers, prepared to
be leaders as well as intelligent cooperators..."

Conservation Realizing that the proper distribution of stock
of Range watering places over the range goes hand in hand with
 grass conservation, ranchers of South Dakota and Nebraska
constructed 8,256 dams, wells, or springs, under the Agricultural Con-
servation Range Program of 1937 and 1938. As a result of these addi-
tional stock watering places properly distributed throughout the range
area of the two states, ranchers cooperating in the program were able
to let 10,000,000 acres of grassland naturally reseed itself by with-
holding such land from grazing during the growing and seeding season.
An additional 3,172 acres of range land were artificially seeded to
grass under the 1938 program. Approximately 4,500 acres of trees were
planted around or near these stock watering places in order to provide
protection for livestock. (The Dakota Farmer, March 11.)

Articles in Two articles in the Survey Midmonthly (March) are of
the Survey interest to Department people. The first, "The Federal
 Broad Line" by Gertrude Springer, describes the work of
the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation. The second, "Medicine
Follows the Crops" by Rosamond C. Timmons, Agricultural Workers Health
and Medical Association, and Clarence J. Glacken, Works Progress Admini-
stration, tells of medical aid for migrant farm workers in California,
under the Farm Security Administration and the (California) Health and
Medical Association.

**Co-op Stock
Marketing**

L. B. Mann, Farm Credit Administration, in News for Farmer Cooperatives (March) writes on "What's Ahead in Co-op Livestock Marketing." "By concentrating volume through efficient and well-informed cooperative marketing associations," he says in part, "producers can reduce some of the competing selling outlets, cut costs of marketing, and at the same time improve materially their bargaining position. Cooperatives need to improve their selling technique if they are to attract and hold the producers' business. They should encourage in every way the selling and buying of both livestock and meats on a standardized graded basis. They should adopt new and improved methods of operation rather than imitate and duplicate old and out-of-date customs followed by the trade. Salesmen need to be more accurately informed as to cut-out values in order that they sell livestock on the hoof in line with what packers are getting for the finished product. By selling livestock on a graded basis rather than on a 'mine-run' basis, cooperatives can do much to encourage the production of better-quality livestock. Such a system should make it possible to keep markets, both central and local, more closely in line. It should reduce some of the uncertainty and lack of knowledge on the part of the producer and minimize the chances for manipulation of prices at country points. This system will go a long way toward enabling cooperatives to sell graded livestock by wire or telephone rather than have it all physically concentrated at central markets where it is sold on an individual and a personally inspected basis."

Canned Pea

A loan of \$7,500,000 to the Canned Pea Marketing Stabilization Cooperative for the purpose of stabilizing the canned pea market has been approved by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Negotiations for the loan were made by the Canned Pea Marketing Cooperative, a nationwide organization of pea canners, in cooperation with William Kirsch of the Wisconsin State Department of Agriculture and Markets. This year the nation's pea canning industry is faced with a surplus of 9,000,000 cases whereas the normal annual carry-over amounts to but 4,000,000 cases. The RFC loan will permit holding the excess 5,000,000 cases off the markets. The loan was approved by the RFC on the condition that the cooperative furnish a collateral reserve equal to 10 percent of disbursements as made and that collateral be furnished to the extent of 15 percent of the loan. It will be made at market values of canned peas. (Wisconsin Agriculturist, March 11.)

**Dairy
Barns**

Putting hay crops into the silo instead of the haymow is bringing about a change in dairy barn design. The new order of things makes it possible to do away with the haymow, keep the dairy barn down to one story, lessen fire danger. Already some of the dairy equipment firms are selling all-metal dairy barns. (Farm Journal, April.)

House, Continued debate on H.R. 4852, Interior Department Ap-
Mar. 15 propriation Bill for 1940.

The Senate was not in session.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Rubber-Tired "The application of pneumatic tires to tractors and
Farm Wagon more recently to a number of field machines, has demon-
strated beyond doubt a greater efficiency, as related to
rolling resistance, than is possible with the steel wheel," says E. C.
Sauve, Michigan State College, in Agricultural Leaders' Digest (March).
"This fact was brought in tests conducted on a power sprayer. The sprayer
when loaded with liquid weighed 6,055 pounds. The draw bar pull required
to move this loaded sprayer, equipped with steel wheels and having an over-
all diameter of 54 inches and a rim width of 5 inches, was 1,210 pounds
when operating in loose sandy soil. When pneumatic tires were substituted,
measuring only 31 inches in diameter, the draw bar pull decreased to 730
pounds in the same sandy soil. The same equipment tested on alfalfa sod
also favors the pneumatic tires in about the same proportion. Many farmers
in Michigan are converting their farm wagons and other farm machines to
the more efficient pneumatic-tired wheels..."

Georgia Pine "Hundreds of acres in north Georgia counties have been
for Newsprint set with short-leaf pine, which will be used for newsprint
in the future when paper mills are established in the South,"
reports M. B. Peters in the Chattanooga Times (March 6). "The program
under which these trees are being set is not, however, one which looks
primarily to production of pulpwood. The plan, which includes setting out
millions of trees, short-leaf pine and black locust, is for protection of
the soil. Through the Georgia Extension Service, county agents, Tennes-
see Valley Authority and farmers, thousands of acres of wornout and eroded
soil are being removed from cultivation and reforested..."

1938 Farm The volume of production of agricultural products
Production for sale and for home consumption in 1938 was nearly 5
percent less than the record output of 1937 but was 4 per-
cent higher than the average for the years 1924 to 1929, reports the
Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Crop production in 1938 was 13 percent
lower than in 1937 and was 101 percent of the 1924-29 average, compared
with 116 percent last year. The output of grains in 1938 was above the
1924-29 average for the first year since 1928, and the output of truck
crops advanced to a new high record of 130 percent of the 1924-29 aver-
age. The output of most other crops was lower than in 1937, with the
greatest decline occurring in the production of cotton and cottonseed.
The output of livestock and livestock products in 1938 was 4 percent
larger than in 1937, with increases in production of meat animals and
dairy products more than offsetting the decline in poultry production.

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 54

Section 1

March 20, 1939

COTTON SURPLUS

A \$75,000,000 export subsidy program to move the government's huge surplus cotton stores was reported under AAA study after the President turned thumbs down on the Smith cotton bill to subsidize directly domestic cotton growers, says a report in the Washington Post. The President told reporters the administration is trying to meet the acute surplus cotton situation without bankrupting the Treasury, and said the Treasury has opposed the Smith bill because it would cost too much money. Secretary Wallace and a group of regional directors of the AAA conferred at the White House on what the President called a serious situation presented by the large cotton carryover. They are reported to have discussed a plan under which the government would acquire title to its 11,000,000-bale stock of loan cotton and foster sales through licensed exporters and dealers abroad and at home. The President said the loan cotton would eventually be sold and not dumped or burned.

WINTER WHEAT

"The winter wheat crop has come through the period of severe weather in relatively good shape, if early reports to state agents of the new Federal Crop Insurance Corporation are an indication," reports John M. Collins in a Kansas City report to the New York Times. "So far no claims of complete loss have been made to any of the state offices of the corporation. Lawrence Norton, supervisor in Kansas, said he had received approximately sixty applications for reimbursement for part loss, but that payment on these claims would be held in abeyance until after harvest, when a check could be made on total yield on the insured field...Missouri leads the nation in the number of policies in force, while Kansas is far out in front in the total of acreage covered by the insurance...For the nation as a whole, Leroy K. Smith, manager of the FCIC, says policies already issued covering the 1939 crop guarantee production of more than 40,000,000 bushels in 1,200 counties of 30 states..."

PATENT SYSTEM

The United States patent system is to be revised immediately "to keep this country inventively ahead of the economic and military systems of the totalitarian powers," according to an Associated Press report from New York. The council, made up of prominent inventors, industrialists, judges, lawyers and labor leaders, was appointed on a motion by Representative William I. Sirovich of New York, chairman of the House Committee on Patents. Richard Eyre, council chairman, said the council would recommend legislation for revision of the patent law; elimination of monopolistic patent practices and the protection of patents and stimulation of American invention for military and industrial purposes; and elimination of delays, red tape and litigation in patenting. (A.P.).

Senate, Began debate on H.R. 4425, reorganization bill.
Mar. 16 Mr. Pepper submitted an amendment he intends to propose to the Agricultural Appropriation Bill for 1940, to provide \$50,000 for an experiment station for cassava in Florida.

The Committee on Foreign Relations reported without amendment H.J.Res. 150, to amend the joint resolution providing for United States participation in the Third International Congress for Microbiology (S.Rept. 178).

House, Continued debate on the Interior Department Appropriation Bill for 1940. An amendment by Mr. Johnson of Oklahoma, providing \$1,070,000 for the reindeer industry in Alaska, was defeated. An amendment by Mr. Culkin, to decrease from \$23,000,000 to \$3,000,000 the item for Grand Coulee Dam, was defeated.

The House Committee on Agriculture reported without amendment S. 1363, to repeal section 101 (c) (4) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (farm acreage allotment) (H.Rept. 252).

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Soybean Farmers can use soybean paint with confidence and
Paint treat themselves to three distinct advantages, advises C. H. Jefferson, agricultural engineer at Michigan State College, after a tour through paint factories and testing laboratories. The three advantages include obtaining a higher quality of paint, making use of the soybean in processing so that the by-product of soybean oil meal becomes lower in cost for livestock feed, and creation of a market for more soybeans. Jefferson finds that manufacturers are agreeing that 20 to 25 percent soy oil makes a better non-fading paint, chalks instead of cracking and checking. The chalking, indicating oxidation throughout instead of just on the surface, is called the test of a good paint. One of the modern paints now includes 60 percent linseed, 30 percent soy oil and 10 percent thinner and dryer. (Wisconsin Agriculturist, March 11.)

Wildlife "The second National Wildlife Restoration Week, March
Week 19 to 25, is being observed throughout the United States by a large number of local and national organizations concerned with the future of natural resources," says an editorial in Fur-Fish-Game (April). "The first annual Wildlife Week was proclaimed in 1938 by President Roosevelt. Among the groups participating are 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers, Garden Clubs, Audubon Societies, Junior Chambers of Commerce, sportsmen's clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls. Schools, churches, radio stations and newspapers give general recognition to the cause of conservation during the week. Sheets of 80 wildlife poster stamps, including trees, wildflowers, birds, mammals and fish, are distributed by the National Wildlife Federation in conjunction with Wildlife Week. These stamps are from paintings by outstanding nature artists."

Food Stamp Plan Praised The Administration's food-stamp plan providing for the distribution of surplus commodities to the needy through regular trade channels was said by P. S. Willis, president of the Associated Grocery Manufacturers of America, to "deserve the wholehearted cooperation of the industry." He cited the facts that the plan, if successful, would enable the government to materially reduce the amount of surplus commodities and give the underprivileged a better diet. He also praised the plan in that it provides for the distribution of surplus commodities through regular established trade channels. The commodities that might be placed on a surplus list and thus be made available to the needy under the plan, he said, included eggs, butter, oranges, grapefruit, dried beans, peas, raisins and fresh vegetables. Mr. Willis said there was little possibility that non-surplus commodities competing with designated surplus commodities would be harmed by such distribution. (New York Herald Tribune, March 16.)

Low Farm Interest The farmer is paying a lower average interest rate on his farm mortgage today than at any time on record, and an average rate lower than the long-term interest charge paid by any major industrial group, except the railroads and public utilities. Gov. F. F. Hill of the Farm Credit Administration says the total farm mortgage interest bill has dropped steadily during the past ten years, from 568 million dollars in 1928 to 372 million in 1937 and approximately 365 million last year. "The annual interest bill of 2,250,000-odd farmers who have mortgages on their places now averages about \$160 per mortgaged farm," Mr. Hill said. "The number of dollars the farmer has to pay is not only smaller than for a long, long time, but also the interest bill takes a smaller part of his income." The average interest rate on all farm mortgages dropped from approximately 6 percent in 1929 to 5.25 percent in 1937 and available data indicate a further decline during 1938, according to Hill, who said this was the lowest level on record. "Getting interest rates for agriculture as low as those available to other industrial groups has been one of the major objectives of the Farm Credit Administration, and that objective has been realized," Governor Hill said. "The contract rate of 4 percent on federal land bank loans is the lowest mortgage rate available to any class of individual borrowers in this country; and the competitive effect of this rate has helped to reduce the mortgage interest bill of all farmers irrespective of the source from which they borrow."

Control of Weeds "Good news for western grain farmers is the announcement that two major grainfield weed pests, wild mustard and radish, may be almost completely controlled by spraying infested fields with a solution of dilute sulfuric acid, using a specially designed machine to apply the spray," says the Farm Journal (April). "The limiting factor, until the present machine was developed, has been the corrosive effect of sulfuric acid on equipment. As high as 95 percent kill of weeds has been secured with this method in California. Some western farmers are converting their spray rigs to meet specifications in a recent bulletin written by Ball and French, University of California. Cost of material and application runs about \$3 an acre."

Merchant
Truckers

"The merchant trucker has become the object of an increasing volume of state and municipal laws and ordinances in recent years," says E. L. Burtis, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in the Agricultural Situation (March). "Analysis of these laws and regulations, as part of a larger study of interstate trade barriers by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, reveals that some of them tend not merely to regulate but to hamper and restrict his operations, in local as well as in interstate commerce. Many of the regulations are drawn in such a way as to favor local producers over more distant producers, or in-state producers over out-of-state producers. In a few cases there is outright discrimination against the out-of-state merchant trucker. Most of the state and municipal laws and ordinances regulating the merchant trucker or itinerant merchant define him as a person having no fixed and permanent place of business in the town or other place where he wishes to sell. This definition thus includes both farmers who bring their own produce to market and merchants who make a business of buying farm products and transporting these to market for sale. However, most of the regulatory laws and ordinances expressly exempt farmers who sell their own produce..." An editor's note says: "The merchant trucker has become an increasingly important part of the modern machinery of food distribution. He buys fresh products direct from the farms and sells wherever he can find a buyer or buyers. He crosses and re-crosses state lines and, to the extent that he buys in one state and sells in another, he is a factor in interstate trade. As such, he is of concern to all those interested in the free flow of commerce between the states, unhampered by legislative or administrative barriers."

Rubber Food
Wrappers

"Newest transparent food wrappers are made of tightly stretched rubber," says Robert D. Potter, in a Science Service copyright report. "The day is not far distant when you may be buying a broiler chicken encased in a skin-tight casing of clear rubber, and sealed in a vacuum inside this rubber covering. The covering is made of special rubber free from sulfur...The advantages of the new wrapper are many. The elimination of air prevents the development of rancidity in the fat of pork. Chickens can be stored without 'freezer burn' which is the worry of low-temperature preservation of poultry. The prevention of moisture loss maintains original weight. And the use of carbon dioxide inside the rubber covering aids preservation for those products which keep better in such an atmosphere."

Corn, Wheat
Estimate

Farm officials, faced with wheat and feed crop surplus problems, hailed the federal crop reporting board's forecast that this year's corn acreage would be the smallest in forty years and that the area sown to wheat would be 18 percent less than last year, says an Associated Press report. The board estimated the acreage to be planted to corn at 92,062,000. This compared with a goal of 96,000,000 under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration's program. The wheat acreage was placed at 65,650,000. While this exceeded the crop control program's goal of 55,000,000 acres, it was 15,000,000 less than was seeded for last year's large crop.

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

March 21, 1939

LOAN WHEAT PURCHASE

The Department of Agriculture yesterday announced agreement in principle of a plan for the purchase of 81,000,000 bushels of wheat by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation held under the 1938 wheat loan program to which the Commodity Credit Corporation takes title at the maturity of the loans. Producers have opportunity during April 1 to June 15 of redeeming pledged or mortgaged wheat. The proportion of the 81,000,000 bushels which will be purchased by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation will depend upon redemptions or extension of loans. Except for such amounts as will be used for domestic relief purposes the wheat purchased will be held for export. Low quality wheat, or such as is particularly adapted to domestic milling, will be exchanged for wheat suitable for export. "The plan for the FSCC to take over loan wheat acquired by the Commodity Credit Corporation is another evidence of the value of the general farm program for wheat farmers," R. M. Evans, agricultural adjustment administrator, said. (New York Times.)

RAIL & WATER FREIGHT RATES

Two government agencies began yesterday a joint study of comparative freight rates on shipments by rail and by water. The hearing, conducted by examiners of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Maritime Commission, involved directly transportation charges on citrus fruits from Florida to Baltimore. However, ship line officials said the case actually concerned the general question of rate differentials on all commodities hauled by rail and water. They said water lines could operate only with rate levels substantially lower than those charged by railroads. They argued little if any differential existed on citrus shipments. (A.P.).

CHERRY BLOSSOMS

The Cherry Blossom Festival (in Washington) was postponed one week to March 31 to April 7 when officials were notified the blossoms at the Tidal Basin would not open in time for the original date. C. Marshall Finnan, National Capital Parks superintendent, last night said the cherry trees should be blooming by March 31, barring unusual weather. Coronation of the festival queen will climax the opening day, at 4:30 at the Polo Field. (Washington Post.)

Freight Rate Revenue Up Freight rate increases allowed by the Interstate Commerce Commission in March 1938, coupled with certain other increases made in November 1937, produced for the railroads in the last nine months of 1938 added revenues at the annual rate of \$182,797,000, it is estimated from completed earnings returns for the year. This estimate is based on a sharp increase in revenues per ton mile in 1938 over 1937, which was particularly noticeable after last March when the 5 percent and 10 percent general rate increases went into effect. Revenue per ton mile is the amount received for hauling a ton of freight one mile. (Wall Street Journal.)

Senate, Mar. 17 Continued debate on H.R. 4425, reorganization bill. S. 1837, relating to importation of shingles, and S. 1838, to amend the tariff act of 1930 with respect to the marketing of lumber and timber imported from foreign countries, were taken from the Committee on Foreign Relations and referred to the Committee on Finance. Recessed until Monday, March 20. The House was not in session. (Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Booklet on FSA Houses Plans for the five-room houses built by the Farm Security Administration for about \$1,100 became available to the public recently in a small booklet published by the Department of Agriculture, says a report in Southern Lumberman (March 15). The booklet, entitled "Small Houses," includes house plans for the \$1,100 houses built on the Farm Security Administration's southeast Missouri project, and also for typical homes constructed at eight other FSA projects. Most of the houses described in the booklet are farm houses, without plumbing, but a few are urban or suburban homes. All are small homes that fall within the broad category of "lost-cost" structures. The booklet illustrates the method of construction by prefabrication and precutting, gives the floor plan for one of the typical houses and describes the materials used. The cost of the booklet is 10 cents (Supt. of Documents, G.P.O.).

Mississippi Flood Control The Engineering News-Record (March 16) contains an article on "First Mississippi Flood-Control Dam." A note says: "Sardis dam on a tributary of the Yazoo River in Mississippi adds the first headwaters detention reservoir to the modern flood-control work of the lower Mississippi River. As the first of several flood-control dams listed in the revised lower Mississippi flood-control plan and as a trial of delta soils for hydraulic fill the work has great experimental interest."

Quinine Gift The U. S. Department of Agriculture has presented 1,000 quinine plants to Brazil, according to the Rio de Janeiro correspondent of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry. They will be set out in various sections of the country in order to test the feasibility of producing quinine in Brazil. (Press.)

Louisiana A New Orleans report in Facts About Sugar (March)
Sugar Crop says the 1938-39 sugar crop in Louisiana missed the half
 million mark by just 10,000 tons, according to a survey
made by Dr. W. M. Grayson, head statistician of the AAA at Baton Rouge.
His figures show a production of 5,855,000 short tons of cane, which pro-
duced approximately 490,000 tons of sugar, raw value. This compared with
406,000 tons of sugar from 5,240,000 tons of cane in 1937-38. The re-
markable thing about the 1938-39 figure, however, is that it shows the
record-breaking production to have come from 17,000 acres less than was
used to grow the 1937-38 crop; 292,000 against 309,000. Further, the
past season's record output was accomplished in the face of killing frost
in November. Improved varieties of cane, vastly more productive and more
resistant to disease, are the explanation given by Dr. Grayson for the
large increase in cane yields, which averaged 21.5 tons per acre last
season, against 19 tons in 1937. Sugar production per acre increased
from 1.60 to 1.75 tons.

Food Scrip The Commonweal (March 17) in an editorial on the pro-
Program posed food scrip plan, says: "The latest plan to solve the
 dilemma of scarcity in the midst of plenty...has far-reaching
possibilities for the national well-being without many of the disadvantages
of the abandoned two-price plan...It (the food scrip plan) would stimu-
late the food business and business generally, and, even more important,
the nation's farmers would be able to dispose of a far greater proportion
of their hard-earned produce; they in turn would accelerate the wheels
of industry by their own increased purchasing power...Of all the schemes
propounded by the Department of Agriculture to help the farmer while help-
ing unemployed, and to build up the nation generally, surely this would
seem to be deserving of a thorough test."

Classification "The present development of terracing in America is
of Terraces the result of years of use, extensive field observations
 and experimentation, and many modifications from early
practices in construction procedure," says C. L. Hamilton, Soil Conserva-
tion Service, in Agricultural Engineering (March). "All stages of develop-
ment from the modern terrace of today to the crude hillside ditches and
furrows of pioneer American farmers have been experienced. The evolution
through which terrace development has passed has led to a variety of ter-
race types, terms and classifications. At the present time there does not
seem to be any universally accepted terrace classification or interpreta-
tion of terracing terms. This condition is largely due to the past prac-
tice of designating terrace types according to the method of construction
or the individual that developed various improvements in construction
technique...In some sections terraces are designated as narrow or broad-
base, but a narrow or broadbase terrace as used in one area may have quite
different cross-sectional dimensions from terraces with similar names in
other areas. In other sections terraces are referred to as Nichols or
Mangum, modified Nichols or modified Mangum. More recently we have heard
of the Reddick terrace and the Georgia terrace. The Wheatland terrace and
the row terrace, the level terrace and the graded terrace, the ridge ter-
race and the channel terrace are some of the other terms..."

New Barley
Variety

"Velvon, a new, smooth bearded barley variety having a relatively stiff straw, a white kernel and resistant to covered smut has been developed by R. W. Woodward (Bureau of Plant Industry) in cooperation with the Utah Experiment Station," says Grant S. Richards, Utah Agricultural College, in the Utah Farmer (March 10). "The merits of the new variety are shown in experiments by Mr. Woodward and D. C. Tingey, of the Utah Experiment Station...Velvon responded remarkably well to later planting. Its yielding ability either equalled or surpassed the other varieties, including Trebi, Atlas, Winter Club, Sacramento and Union Beardless...From 3,5000 to 4,000 acres of Velvon barley were grown in Utah during 1938..."

Vitamins in
Frozen Foods

Agricultural Engineering (March) contains a paper on "Food Preparation and Utilization Aspects of Refrigerated Locker Storages" by Sybil Woodruff, Home Economics Department, University of Illinois. She says in part: "Several laboratories have engaged in studies of the vitamin content of frozen pack foods of commerce. Vitamin C has been assayed oftener than the other vitamins and has been found to diminish some in amount during the blanching, cooling, packaging, sealing and shipping operations, though, as one group of investigators has pointed out, equal or greater losses of vitamin C might occur during the usual procedures of marketing and handling the so-called fresh vegetables. After the frozen vegetable has been thawed, the vitamin C diminishes progressively with standing. Overblanching causes a loss of vitamin C due to dissolving action of the water; too little blanching may allow for oxidative destruction of this vitamin during storage. One laboratory found 40 percent of the vitamin originally present in frozen peas, to remain in the cooking water after it had been drained... It has also been shown that peas and lima beans lose none of their vitamin G during either freezing or cooking; neither was vitamin B lost in peas during freezing, though 26 percent of it was lost during cooking. Vitamin A has been found to be unimpaired by commercial freezing of foods."

Pan American
Agriculture

Paul R. Kelbaugh, Division of Agricultural Cooperation, Pan American Union, writes on "Pan American Cooperation in Agriculture" in the March Bulletin. Among other things, the author mentions the work of the Department in controlling plant and animal pests responsible for barring products from the United States and the Latin American countries; the work of Dr. F. F. Bibby, cotton insects expert, who was selected by the Union and the Department to study cotton insects in Peru; the work of Dr. Anna E. Jenkins of the Bureau of Plant Industry in studying orange scab in Brazil.

Security Act

The House Ways and Means Committee decided unanimously last week to exclude farm laborers, domestic help and employees of charitable, religious and non-profit institutions in any revisions of the social security system. (Press.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1

March 22, 1939

RUBBER-LIKE SUBSTANCE FROM WHEY

A rubber-like substance of transparent character has been produced from lactic acid of whey under a process perfected by the U.S. Bureau of Dairy Industry. Known to chemists as polymethylacrylate, the substance contains unique properties. Its transparency, elasticity, toughness, ease of solubility and stability to sunlight and ultra-violet rays make it valuable in the preparation of lacquers, varnishes, inks, impregnating compounds and cements. Laboratory results produced by Lee T. Smith and H. V. Claborn, of the bureau, indicate the substance can be produced as cheaply from lactic acid by their method as it is now produced from ethylene, or alcohol by the cyanhydrin process. It is believed the cheapness of the bureau's process will lead to increased use of lactic acid. The substance can be combined with organic glass in making a molding superior to original compounds; and for coating paper and other fibrous materials, making them resistant to water, oils and gases. (New York Times.)

PARITY PRICE PAYMENTS

A House farm bloc drive to write \$500,000,000 for unbudgeted parity price payments into the agriculture appropriation bill yesterday was rallying southern and western support for a showdown in the House next week, says a report in the Washington Post. The \$500,000,000 figure was disclosed yesterday by Rep. Ferguson of Oklahoma, who denied authorship of the plan. The parity price drive will await a report from the House Appropriations Committee late this week on the 1940 agriculture appropriation bill, said already to have been increased in subcommittee some \$244,000,000 above the budget to a total of \$1,060,000,000 for all farm purposes. Unless the subcommittee reconsiders recent action, or is overridden by the full appropriation committee, this bill, as reported, will carry \$250,000,000 for farm parity price payments not recommended by the President or included in his budget.

SHEETING STANDARDS

A campaign to eliminate confusing markings on sheets and pillowcases of other than first quality appeared to have achieved success yesterday when the Association of Cotton Textile Merchants of New York announced that 17 selling agents had voted on a set of standards and 11 others had endorse the standards. Under the new standards, which will be effective July 1, the mills involved will ship no sheets and cases of below first quality without positive identification on each article, using only the terms "irregulars," "second quality," "second selection" or "seconds," for such identification, and applying the label either to the face of the article itself or as a supplementary label. (New York Times.)

Farm Woodland Cooperative "Tioga County, in southern New York, has the first private, non-subsidized cooperative that is prepared to handle all products of the farm woodlot, such as firewood, pulpwood, lumber, and mine props," says J. S. Knapp, New York Extension Service, in American Agriculturist (March 18). "The first sale contract has just been announced, for 100,000 board feet of saw logs...After deducting administrative expenses, and allowing an extra five percent for sound forestry practices, the owners will receive substantially more than they would get as individual sellers. Incorporated as the Tioga Woodland Owners Cooperative, the group has a membership of fifty at present. They own and control 3,000 acres of merchantable timber. Cooperating in the project is Prof. J. A. Cope, extension forester. The entire area which may be included has 100,000 acres...A survey was started in 1936 by the Forest Service, aided by the Soil Conservation Service, and the County Farm Bureau...In Cope's opinion, similar set-ups are possible in other parts of the state, and country, where the right conditions exist...The woodland cooperative must be near wood-using industries that can purchase and process forest products grown by woodlot owners; and enough merchantable timber must be in the area..."

Cotton Plant John W. Randolph, U.S.D.A. cooperator at the Alabama Depth Studies Experiment Station in American Cotton Grower (March) writes on "Variable Depth Cotton Planting". He says in part: "In 1931, the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering of the Department of Agriculture conceived the idea that for the best stand, cottonseed should be planted at variable depths. To accomplish this a standard cotton planter was equipped with simple attachments which caused the opening plow to move up and down making a seed furrow varying in depth one and one-half inches within the horizontal distance desired for the spacing of the final stand. In the first season's work this new system of cotton planting showed such merit that the Department obtained a basic patent which was later dedicated as a public service patent. Different spacings of the final stands of cotton are recommended by state experiment stations for various conditions throughout the cotton belt...In planting studies conducted over the past seven years comparisons have been made between the variable depth system and the constant depth system of planting...It has been found that the strongest plants seldom grow from one particular depth of seed placement. Within a short distance often the optimum depth of planting will vary as much as one-half inch. Frequently the first plants appearing above the surface of the soil may turn out to be the poorest. With the variable depth seed placement the seedlings come up over a period of several days. Each succeeding group of plants appearing above the surface encounters different conditions which may materially influence the growth and development of the seedling. Several commercial farm machinery manufacturers sell equipment for variable depth cotton planting. Such equipment can be obtained in a variety of mechanical arrangements. A few farmers have altered their own planters to permit variable depth planting. One difficulty in the past has been the tendency for certain parts to wear rapidly; also it has been difficult to make the planter penetrate hard clay soils to the desired depth. However, many farmers report that their cotton yields are so much improved that the mechanical troubles are of minor importance."

Living Creature Index "Until now there has never been a single fairly complete list by name of the living creatures," says an editorial in the New York Times (March 19). "From England it is reported that the zoological index, which is nearing completion, contains 225,000 names. Under the system employed (a system invented by Linnaeus, the Swedish naturalist) every creature has been given two names--the generic, which it shares with the members of the same genus, and the specific, which is **restricted** to a single species within the genus. How enormous the task has been is suggested by the numbers of 'creatures' that have been described by the scientists. More than half the total number consists of insect genera. The molluscs amount to 30,000 and the birds to 10,000. There are 8,000 genera of worms alone. The difficulty of naming has been increased by the altering or misspelling of names in previous partial lists, and by the bestowal of the same name on two distinct genera, each author having named his discovery without knowledge of the other. These confusions are obviated in this single work--all-embracing up to 1935. Zoologists in all parts of the earth have assisted in this zoological descriptive register..."

Hay Crushing Machine "Some of the present hazards and losses in haymaking will be overcome if hay-crushing machines, now being developed in the department of agricultural engineering, University of Illinois, come up to expectations," says F. J. Keilholz, extension editor of the University, in Country Gentleman (April). "Sponsoring the work is the manufacturing concern which holds the patent rights on the hay-crushing process. Through funds provided by this company, the department has developed a crusher outfit to be used with a horse-drawn mower. A number of these machines will be built for actual field operation during 1939. A tractor-mower hay crusher also will be designed and built this spring...If field tests on these two types of machines prove satisfactory, it is hoped that within the next year or two a hay-crushing machine may be manufactured and placed on the market at a moderate price...The principle of the crusher involves merely two large rollers between which the hay is passed as it is cut. These rollers crush the stems of the plants so that the moisture may be more readily evaporated. Experiments at the college show that crushing the hay causes the stems to dry nearly as fast as the leaves and that the drying time for crushed hay is only about one half that for uncrushed hay. This reduction, of course, greatly lessens the danger of rain falling on the hay after it is cut and increases the chances of producing good hay."

Cooperative Locker Plant The first cooperative locker plant in Wisconsin to be operated independently of other activities has been organized at Greenville by farmers of Outagamie County, it is reported by W. L. Witte, chief of the marketing division, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Markets. Incorporating as the Greenville Frigid Locker Cooperative, the new organization will give complete service which includes curing, cutting, sharp freezing, storing and wrapping. A full-time expert meat cutter will be employed. Locker space will permit the storage of both frozen vegetables and meats. (National Butter and Cheese Journal, March.)

Senate, Continued debate on H.R. 4425, reorganization bill.
 Mar. 20 The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported without amendment S. 1069, to amend section 8 (c) of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 to make its provisions applicable to Pacific Northwest boxed apples (S.Rept. 181).

Received a report from the Secretary of Agriculture, pursuant to S.Res. 291, 75th Cong., pertaining to an investigation regarding export trade in, and the use of byproducts of, tobacco; to Com. on Agriculture and Forestry.

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported with amendments S. 1855, to relieve the existing national economic emergency by increasing agricultural purchasing power, to increase the national income, to make possible a balanced budget and to regulate the value of the dollar (S.Rept. 180).

The following bills were taken from the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency: S. 1250, providing for a moratorium on mortgages held by the Farm Credit Administration...; S.J.Res. 65, relating to deficiency judgments against borrowers from federal land banks...

House, Passed H.R. 4852, Interior Department Appropriation
 Mar. 20 Bill for 1940. During debate on the Blue Ridge and Natchez Trace Parkways item the federal-aid highway system was discussed and defended.

Considering bills on the calendar, the House passed^{ed} the following (among others): S. 1098, to amend section 12 of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Act by authorizing advances for crop insurance (this bill will now be sent to the President); H.R. 3801, to extend the time for retirement of cotton pool participation trust certificates.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Freight Rate In "Effects of Trucking on Freight Rates" in the
 Structure Agricultural Situation (March) James C. Nelson says in part:
 "Changes in the (freight) rate structure present vital questions for the farmer. Lower rates frequently enable farmers to buy supplies at lower prices. Lower rates on farm products may mean higher farm prices under certain conditions of demand, or lower prices to consumers and a larger volume of consumption. Reductions in rates on commodities moving long distances by rail just sufficient to offset lower trucked-compelled rates on these commodities when produced nearer common markets tend to maintain the existing distribution of production by regions. At the same time the diversion of high-rated and short-haul traffic volumes due to depressed business activity and other factors, has prompted the railroads to seek to avoid further revenue losses or to recoup losses in revenue by maintaining, or even raising, their rates. The tendency has been to maintain or increase rates on long-haul, heavy or low-rated tonnage not readily susceptible to truck competition."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 57

Section 1

March 23, 1939

WALLACE ON COTTON PLAN

Secretary Wallace of the Department of Agriculture is confident that, in so far as the executive branch of the government is concerned, details of the program under which it is hoped to recapture a fair share of the world's cotton markets will be in hand within a week. Beyond emphasizing the primary importance of financial aid by Congress, he declined yesterday to discuss the legislative phase of the problem. Mr. Wallace emphasized the importance of quick action to attain the Administration's objective--to recover a share of the world's markets and uphold the income of the cotton farmers. The farmers of the country, with the exception of those dependent upon the export markets, he said, are in favorable position as illustrated by the fact that the general farm program has 85 percent support of the agriculturists. But, he added, wheat and cotton present serious problems requiring definite and speedy action. (New York Times.)

NEW ENGLAND FOREST AID

The Forest Service announced yesterday that under the deficiency bill appropriating \$5,000,000 for forest protection it will be able to undertake in New England a program covering 15,000,000 acres, including 904 towns. The \$5,000,000 will be used for fire-hazard reduction and forest-fire control in timber areas damaged by last September's hurricane, and will supplement work done by 40 CCC camps and 12,000 WPA workers. The federal funds will be matched by money already or to be appropriated for the hurricane cleanup by the states. The appropriation covers one part of a twofold program for New England. The second part embraces timber salvage operations under the New England Timber Salvage Administration, which is now buying salvageable timber with funds supplied by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation. (New York Times.)

EASTER LILY EXHIBITION

The annual lily and spring bloom show at the Botanic Garden (Washington) opened yesterday. On exhibition are more than 300 lily plants, each with 12 to 20 flowers, 280 cineraria plants and 1,200 pots of hyacinths, tulips, jonquils, narcissus and other bulbs. The show will be open daily in the east end of the conservatory. The feature this year is the creole lily, a type which has been popular in the South for more than 100 years but is only now being introduced to the North. W. A. Frederick, landscape architect of the Capitol grounds, is enthusiastic about the creole lily, as are Department of Agriculture specialists who are cooperating with the Louisiana state authorities for its best botanical development. (Washington Star.)

Apple Trends Both the number of apple trees of bearing age and apple production in the United States are expected to continue downward at a moderate rate for several years, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics declares in its annual apple outlook report. The bureau pointed out also that the number of apple trees yet to come into bearing is smaller than usual. "If plantings and replacements continue to be as light as during the last several years," the report said, "apple production 10 to 15 years hence may be lower than the average of recent years." For Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountain States, production in recent years has been fairly stable at about 50 to 55 million bushels per year. The peak of production apparently has been passed for the region as a whole, and the general trend is expected to be downward. In the Central States, where annual production varies greatly, increasing production from young orchards probably will about offset decreasing production from old commercial and farm orchards for several years--assuming average growing conditions in these years. (Better Fruit, March.)

Direct-Seeded Tomatoes Interest in the direct seeding of tomatoes is keen in the Middle West this year, following the considerable plantings in Ohio and Illinois in 1938. Growers are reported as being well satisfied with the results. Usually the seed is sowed in rows of 4 to 5 feet apart at a rate of about 20 ounces of seed per acre as soon after April 15 as possible. Plants are allowed to grow until about 4 or 6 inches tall when they are thinned by hoeing or by cross cultivation. Last year heavy May frosts in Ohio and in Illinois killed transplants but did not injure the direct field seedlings. Illinois direct-seeded plots failed to yield as well as the transplanted. Maturity was delayed by direct seeding much less with the second-early variety, Early Baltimore, than with the late type, Illinois Baltimore. Apparently, direct seeding is more successful with earlier varieties than with late ones, says W. A. Huelson of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station. At the Illinois Station the yield of Early Baltimore, direct-seeded, tomatoes was 9.235 tons of U.S. No. 1s and 2s per acre. For Early Baltimore, transplanted, it was 11.892 tons of U.S. No. 1s and 2s. The 1938 yield of Illinois Baltimore, direct-seeded, was 8.127 tons of U.S. No. 1s and 2s. For Illinois Baltimore, transplanted, it was 12.353 tons of U.S. No. 1s and 2s per acre. The cost of growing a direct-seeded field is considered less than the cost when the plants are transplanted. (The Canner, March 18.)

Eire Removes Apple Duty American apple growers will have opportunity to extend their market in Ireland under a decision of the Ministry of Agriculture to remove all import duties on the fruit regardless of the country of origin. No limitation will be placed upon quantity of imports. The period of free entry will extend from April 1 to July 15. (Press.)

Fruit Bud
Sports

The Department conducted by the American Pomological Society, in American Fruit Grower (March) has an item on the Delicious apple, and says! "The discovery of solid red bud sports of Delicious has stimulated the search for bud sports in other varieties of apples and kinds of fruits. Literally hundreds of sports have been "uncovered" as a result of widespread new interest in this phenomenon. Sports of Gravenstein, Rome Beauty, and other varieties had been discovered previously, but these had not aroused a great deal of interest. During the past decade, sports have been found in many deciduous fruits. Some sports in the sour cherry are decidedly advantageous, since size and season of fruit, length of stem, hardness of fruit buds, and fertility of blossoms have been found to vary significantly from the parent variety. Other sports have been observed which, if perpetuated, are a distinct liability. A systematic search and the scientific testing of bud sports has long been advocated by A. D. Shamel (Bureau of Plant Industry) of California, in fact, the citrus industry owes much to the science of selection as developed by Shamel and his co-workers..."

N.C. Soil

North Carolina has approximately 31,000,000 acres of Conservation land. Of this area, 3,433,000 acres are included in six soil conservation districts organized in the past two years, and another 3,253,760-acre area is in the process of being organized into three additional districts. This statistically shows how farmers of the State have been quick to take advantage of the offer of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service to provide technical assistance, and some labor and materials, for the purpose of erosion control, water conservation and land utilization. The Soil Conservation Service originally set up demonstration projects, eight of which, comprising 2,933 cooperating farmers, are now being operated. Since the 1937 Soil Conservation Districts Act of the Legislature, 319 farmers in the six organized districts have signed five-year cooperative agreements to follow approved practices on 33,700 acres. (Raleigh News & Observer, March 13.)

Mo. Tree
Planting

"Spring planting will include a new crop for many Missouri farmers this year--trees," says Missouri Ruralist, (March 18). "Of course, there is nothing new about trees, but we haven't been accustomed to the idea of buying and planting them. Mostly, they just grew, and we've chopped them down. This spring Missouri's forestry program is being extended to the farms. A total of 1,300,000 young trees are available, and orders had been received for more than 700,000 early this month. It is thought the supply will be exhausted before the planting season is over. To help in this program, tree planting demonstrations are being held by extension foresters in about 90 counties... The trees must be used for windbreaks, erosion control, or for wood or post production... The cost of the trees is \$2 a thousand, plus transportation charges, except for the pines which are \$3 a thousand... Little need be said as to the value of trees. Black locusts are one of our best gully control weapons. Windbreaks not only temper the winds but conserve soil moisture. And much of our less fertile land can be made more profitable by putting it in trees for posts or wood..."

Senate, Continued debate on H.R. 4425, reorganization bill.
Mar. 21 The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported
with an amendment S.Con.Res. 5, continuing the authority
of the Joint Committee on Forestry.

House, Received from the Administrator of the Agricultural
Mar. 21 Adjustment Administration a "report of the activities of
AAA from January 1, 1937, to June 30, 1938"; ref. to Com.
on Agriculture.

(Omitted from Congressional Digest of March 20.) Passed H.R. 2378,
to prohibit exportation of tobacco seed and plants, except for experimental
purposes.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Insect "Insects Cannot Win" is the title of an illustrated
Control article by Lee A. Strong, Chief of the Bureau of Entomology
and Plant Quarantine, in Scientific American (April).

The last paragraph says: "The future of insecticide development is very
promising. An acid from the cocoanut is the base of a potent insecticide.
Oat hulls and corn cobs yield furfural, and derivatives of this remarkable
compound have given promising results. Sulfur, when combined with other
substances found in plant oils, has been found to be quite toxic. Corn,
rye, wheat and other agricultural surpluses may be fermented to produce
alcohols which, by proper combination, produce substances of great insecti-
cidal and fungicidal value. The day may come when insecticides made
from wastes and very cheap products will so reduce the price of insecti-
cides that, that margin on which the farmer lives, often so narrow, will
broaden out and lead to a better farm life and, in turn, by reducing the
cost of agricultural products, to a better national life."

Proved "In 1938, 1,069 dairy sires were proved," says an
Dairy Sires editorial in Hoard's Dairyman (March 25). "New York was
first with 236, Wisconsin second with 121, and Pennsylvania
third with 94. This is important work. It is bound to reflect ultimately
real improvement in all dairy herds in this country. Because 1,069 bulls
were proved does not mean that they were all proved good or that all the
good ones are alive. But it does mean that a great many of this number
are capable of improving the milk production of our dairy herds and that
most of them will be used until they are no longer serviceable. We see
no way of making substantial improvement in the production of dairy herds
of this country without the use of bulls that are known to be able to
transmit good production. It will take several years before proving bulls
and locating brood cows will have a decided effect on the average produc-
tion of our national herd, but it is encouraging to note that we are on
the way toward developing more herds that will average 300 or more pounds
of fat a year, when the average production of all dairy herds is only 170
pounds of fat."

DAILY DIGEST

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Vol. LXXII, No. 58

Section 1

March 24, 1939

COMMITTEE APPROVES USDA APPROPRIATIONS The House Appropriations Committee asked Congress yesterday to appropriate \$750,000,000 to promote agricultural recovery "essential to the complete restoration of our national economy." The committee sent to the House a bill calling for \$1,067,274,427 in direct appropriations and \$87,727,000 in reappropriations and an indefinite appropriation estimated at \$625,000, for all Agriculture Department activities in the year beginning July 1. The total was \$244,598,376 more than the President and the Budget Bureau asked.

The bill called for \$500,000,000 for soil conservation payments under the Administration's farm program--\$15,000,000 more than the President's budget called for--and \$250,000,000 for farm parity benefits which the budget did not recommend.

Mr. Roosevelt has said no appropriations above \$485,000,000 should be made for the farm program unless Congress at the same time legislates offsetting revenue.

"The appropriation of Congress last year of \$212,000,000 for parity payments clearly indicated the legislative policy with respect to carrying out the new agricultural adjustment act," the committee said. "The committee believes its duty is clear to provide in this bill the funds necessary for a continuation of that policy. The budget, as submitted by the President, would provide a total of \$485,000,000 for farm payments... The committee believes such a reduction would be a blow to the agricultural recovery which is deemed to be essential to the complete restoration of our national economy as a whole."

Although the committee carried forward the parity payment policy set forth in last year's recovery program, it made no provision for special loans, relief and rural rehabilitation. Congress voted \$175,000,000 for the latter purpose last year.

Committee hearings released when the bill was introduced showed Secretary Wallace had said that until unemployment was reduced, agriculture was going to be "in pretty weak shape." Mr. Wallace told a subcommittee: "About half of the farm problem is found in the cities. If the people in the cities do not produce more and if there is not less unemployment, there is bound to be real trouble in agriculture, and there is nothing you can do in agriculture that will cure that." The Secretary said he believed the nation's farmers did not want any major changes immediately in the crop control program, despite criticism in some quarters. (A.P.).

Protein for
Chickens

Dr. Harry W. Titus, National Agricultural Research Center, writing on proteins for chickens, in Country Gentleman (April) says: "At the Center it was found that as the protein content of the diet of growing chicks was increased from 13 to 21 percent there was a definite increase in the gain in live weight from a pound of feed. As the protein content was increased from 21 to 25 percent, there was a rather sharp decrease in the gain per pound of feed. Thus growing chicks make the greatest gain per pound of feed when the diet contains about 21 percent of protein. Estimates were made of the relative efficiencies of diets of different protein content in producing gains in live weight. A diet that contains 20 percent of protein is about 99.7 percent as efficient as one that contains 21 percent; a diet that contains 19 percent is 98.7 percent as efficient and diets that contain 18 and 17 percent are 97.2 and 94.6 percent, respectively, as efficient...A diet that contains 18 or even 17 percent of protein may be more economical, if its cost is low enough, than one that contains 21 percent, even though the latter is more efficient in producing gains in live weight. Often, however, the cost of a diet that contains 20 or 21 percent of protein is not enough greater than that of one of only 17 or 18 percent to warrant the use of the latter. In any case it is good practice to feed a diet that contains 20 to 21 percent of protein until the chicks are about twelve weeks old, and then to decrease gradually the protein content to about 16 or 17 percent by the time the pullets are ready to lay. The pullets then may be placed on a diet that contains about the same percentage of protein but which is more suitable for the economical production of eggs..."

Chopped Hay
Storage

"That chopping hay with the machine set for a two-inch cut results in lower hay temperatures, and consequently less danger of spontaneous combustion, than when the ordinary one-inch cut is used, has now been confirmed in further work at the Wisconsin Experiment Station," says Hoard's Dairyman (March 25). "A discovery which promises to have considerable practical importance is that 2x6 framing timbers, used horizontally inside the wall of a hay storage unit, furnish a cheap and effective method of ventilation. When the hay begins to settle, these timbers tend to hold it up near the wall, thus causing cracks to extend out into the hay. Moreover, an air space is left under each timber. Ventilated floors do not seem to offer much promise of improving the keeping quality of hay, judging by the results of one season's trials. The hay kept better only on the very bottom of a ventilated bin, in the first six or eight inches. No movement of air could be detected passing up through the ventilated floors, even with a sensitive anemometer..."

Increases in Farm Incomes C. M. Purves, in the Agricultural Situation (March) says that while "public attention centers upon the great cotton, corn and wheat industries, to hundreds of thousands of producers, other products are more important." "The cash income from all crops combined was \$3,160,025,000 in 1938," he says, "as compared with \$3,845,614,000 in 1937. But within these figures were several industries which had the largest cash income in several years. The cash income from corn (a major crop) was \$271,659,000 in 1938 compared with \$221,757,000 in 1937. The 1938 figure was the largest since 1930. Principal reasons for the increase in 1938 were the marked increase in sales and the quantity of corn placed under Government loan. The loan proceeds are included in the estimates of income. Peanuts were another crop showing larger income in 1938 compared with 1937. The \$39,951,000 of income received by producers in 1938 was the largest in several years. The 1937 income was \$36,295,000. Principal reasons for the increase in 1938 were increased sales of peanuts and relatively stable prices when compared with 1937. Soybeans are rapidly increasing in importance as a contributor to farm income and in 1938 yielded a cash income of \$31,933,000. This compared with \$28,030,000 in 1937. The 1938 income from soybeans was the largest on Government record. The increase in 1938 over 1937 was due principally to the marked increase in output more than offsetting lower prices. The 1938 cash income from clover seed (red and alsike) totaled \$15,664,000 in 1938 compared with \$9,862,000 in 1937. Lespedeza seed yielded \$5,363,000 of cash income in 1938 compared with \$4,757,000 in 1937. The producers of maple sugar and sirup had a cash income of \$4,281,000 in 1938 compared with \$3,808,000 in 1937, and the growers of sweet sorghum for forage received \$2,760,000 compared with \$2,112,000 in 1937.

Monterey Cypress Dr. Carl B. Wolf, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in California, reports in the California Citrograph (April) that serious losses in plantings of Monterey cypress have occurred for more than ten years, and it was not until recently that Dr. W. W. Wagener, of the Bureau of Plant Industry demonstrated that the major trouble is due to a fungus disease, *Coryneum cardinale*. He says "the Monterey cypress is apparently doomed in cultivation and no further plantings should be made," and "we are hopeful that from among the numerous strains of cypress being tested by Dr. Wagener and by us one will prove satisfactory as a substitute for the Monterey cypress."

Farm Loans in Insurance More emphasis is being placed by life insurance companies on the making of farm mortgage loans than for more than a decade, the Federal Home Loan Bank Review reports. The Review published a survey of investments of all kinds by life insurance companies showing that after a long period of uncertainty in farm financing, their farm mortgage portfolios have leveled off their downward trend in volume. The survey was based upon information obtained from about 50 insurance companies having more than 90 percent of the assets of all such companies in the United States. (Washington Post, March 19.)

Senate,
Mar. 22

Passed H.R. 4425, reorganization bill.
Mr. Mead submitted an amendment he intends to propose to S. 1303, to amend the agricultural adjustment act of 1938 with respect to cotton. Mr. Pittman submitted amendments he intends to propose to H.R. 3134, to amend the act authorizing temporary detail of employees to foreign countries.

House,
Mar. 22

Passed H.R. 5219, second deficiency appropriation bill for 1939. As passed the House, the bill carries the following items for this Department: fighting forest fires, \$2,480,000; provision for spending in New York \$60,000 of the appropriation for New England hurricane damage; enforcement of food, drug and cosmetic act, \$15,000; increase in limitation on international production committees from \$17,500 to \$25,500. The following items for which there were estimates were not included in the bill: water conservation and utilization projects, \$5,000,000; and Dutch elm disease eradication, \$200,000.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Egg, Poultry
Production

The most interesting observations to be made from the new egg and poultry production estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is the fact that the West North Central States seems to be losing their place as the nation's chief producer of eggs. These states are: Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. In 1930, these states produced 28.6 percent of the nation's egg supply, while in 1937 they only produced 23.4 percent. This decline represents about 200,000,000 dozen eggs. To offset this decline in the North West Central States, the New England, Middle Atlantic and East North Central States have increased their production by approximately the same amount. This means that the Corn Belt States have been losing out, while the heavily populated Eastern States have been gaining. The Mountain and Pacific States have been losing a little of their former position as an egg producing area. The same thing can generally be said for poultry production. The West North Central States are producing a smaller percentage of the nation's crop of poultry, while the South and Northeast are expanding. However, a few years of normal feed crop production, with no droughts to force poultry on the market might change this situation considerably. (American Poultry Journal, April.)

"Drop-In" Milk
Cooling Unit

The Scientific American (April) reports there is now available a new "drop-in" milk-cooling unit which can be installed in any standard type of milk-cooling cabinet. The new unit consists of a cooling coil and motor-driven water-circulating device enclosed in a cylindrical steel shell. The cooling coil is connected to and refrigerated by means of a compressor. It may be used in an old or new milk-cooling cabinet and plugged into an electrical outlet. Proper temperature in all parts of the cooler is assured. The unit is available in two sizes for cooling two to six cans of milk a day.

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Section 1

March 27, 1939

AAA BENEFIT PAYMENTS The Agricultural Adjustment Administration reports that expenditures, including benefit payments to farmers, totaled \$354,765,757 during the first eight months of the fiscal year. Included in the crop control subsidies were \$119,662,714 in cotton adjustment payments on the 1937 crop, \$29,503,672 in payments to sugar producers for cooperating with the 1937 production program and \$154,834,192 in soil conservation payments. (A.P.).

AMARYLLIS EXHIBIT The twenty-sixth annual amaryllis show of the Department of Agriculture is open in the exhibition conservatory at Fourteenth Street and Constitution Avenue (Washington). It will remain open daily and Sunday from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m., including Sunday, April 2. The feature of the show this year is the purest white amaryllis ever grown. For more than a decade the department specialists have been developing what has previously been considered an impossibility, a white amaryllis. Each year they have been getting a more satisfactory white bloom and this year they believe they have finally reached their goal. In the show are more than 1,200 pots, each containing two or three plant stalks with 2 to 10 blooms on a stalk. There are more than 6,000 amaryllis blooms. (Washington Star.)

WHEAT, FLOUR EXPORT SALES The Agriculture Department reports sales of wheat and flour for export totaled approximately 91,600,000 bushels from July 1, 1938, to March 18, 1939. The department said that of the total sales for export a bounty had been paid on approximately 67,300,000 bushels. The bounty, made to enable exporters to meet foreign competition, has averaged about 30 cents a bushel. The department reported that about 77,000,000 bushels of the wheat actually had been exported. Sales of wheat represented about 82 percent and of flour about 18 percent. Officials said it should be easy to reach the export goal of 100,000,000 before the new wheat season opens July 1. (A.P.).

CZECHOSLOVAK TARIFFS END Tariff rates set by the year-old trade agreement with Czechoslovakia will be terminated April 22 under a proclamation issued by President Roosevelt. The action affects not only what was Czechoslovakia, but also means that application of lower duties provided in the Czech agreement to products of other nations under the most-favored-nation treatment comes to an end. The trade agreement itself is not canceled, however. (Press.)

Trade Barrier Conference A ten-point program which will be considered by the National Conference on Interstate Trade Barriers in Chicago, April 5, 6 and 7, is announced by the Council of State Governments. The council, as the joint governmental agency serving the various states, has taken the leadership in the rapidly growing movement to combat the danger threatening the nation's free trade through discriminatory state legislation and interstate trade walls. The ten-point program outlined for consideration, as made public by Frank Bane, director of the council, is as follows: (1) truck and motor vehicle regulations; (2) ports of entry; (3) oleomargarine laws; (4) horticultural products; (5) itinerant truckers; (6) use taxes (with or without compensatory tax); (7) milk and dairy products; (8) discriminatory laws--live-stock, poultry and general foods; (9) building material, building codes, etc.; (10) liquor laws. (Memphis Commercial Appeal.)

Frozen Foods Exhibit An exhibit of processed vegetable and fruit varieties was held in Yakima (Wash.) recently under auspices of the Yakima Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Frozen Pack Laboratory, Fruit and Vegetable Products Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Irrigation Branch Experiment Station of Washington State College. Crops included in the display were peas, snap beans, cherries, sweet corn, lima beans, strawberries, plums, apricots and peaches. Studies of yield, quality and growth habits of vegetables and fruits are an important part of the program of the experiment station. An informal cooperative relationship was entered into with the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils early in 1937, whereby suitability of various crops for freezing and canning could be studied. This work is seen as having special significance in view of possible desirable changes in the cropping systems on present irrigated lands and the potential increase in arable land occurring from irrigation projects now under way. (Western Canner and Packer, March.)

Shelterbelt Benefits Kenneth W. Taylor, of the Forest Service, writes on "Shelterbelts as Recreation Areas and Game Refuges" in Parks and Recreation (March). He says in part: "It is interesting to consider the recreation implications of the field shelterbelts being planted on the Plains by the Forest Service. The shelterbelts are on privately owned land and immediately adjacent to cultivated fields, so from the standpoint of the public their recreation possibilities are limited. Yet... they are magnets for neighborhood children...and farm families. Still another recreation service of the shelterbelts is to provide refuges where small game can propagate...There are at least three types of (recreation) development which are crying for attention. Plantings around school grounds and church yards would be dual purposed, protecting buildings from the winds and providing recreation grounds. Illustrative of the great need is the fact that more than 90 percent of the approximately 29,000 rural schools in the Plains States are entirely devoid of trees...The third type is purely for recreation grounds, with perhaps a skating rink or swimming pool in the sheltered areas..."

Installing H. J. Rahmlow, secretary of the Wisconsin Beekeepers
Package Bees Association, reports in the Country Gentleman (April):

"The method of installing package bees shipped in from the South as recommended by workers in the U.S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine was tested by a number of beekeepers in Wisconsin during the past season and found to be very satisfactory. In fact, it was superior to any method the beekeepers had ever tried. The method employs the use of a common orchard or garden sprayer delivering a coarse (sugar sirup) spray at low pressure...By using this method, the queen often starts laying eggs in less than one day and on an average with many trials, approximately in three and one-half days less than with other methods previously used. The losses of queens have been much less by this method, and if well organized there is a saving of labor!"

Invention "Improved equipment for cleaning ditches is one of the
Cleans Ditches byproducts of large-scale work by CCC camps to put public drainage ditches in better condition," says Scientific American (April). "One new machine that promises good results was described by D. A. Isler of the U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Engineering recently. The machine consists of two winch drums on a truck chassis that has a light boom extending from one side for operating a scraper. It is used where dragline excavators cannot be used economically. Dirt loosened in the ditch by plowing is removed with scrapers pulled by a cable from one of the winch drums. Another cable running over the boom from the other winch returns the scraper to the middle of the ditch for reloading. He said three such machines have been built by the bureau and are now in use at CCC drainage camps. The machine can be easily mounted on and removed from practically any make of truck of 1 1/2 tons or larger...The outfit will handle 10 to 15 cubic yards an hour at a cost of 25 to 35 cents a yard. It is operated by a five-man crew."

Smaller "The trend in berry marketing is toward smaller crates,"
Berry Crates says Col. L. Brown, in Country Gentleman (April). "Results of the past few seasons indicate that the 24-pint crate is most suitable for early strawberry sections. After the supplies of strawberries become more plentiful, consumers begin to buy a quart of berries at a time and the 24-quart crate gives best results. For most parts of the country the 24-crate will be found suitable. Raspberries should be packed in pint boxes and preferably 24-pint crates...Blackberries are preferred in quart boxes and 24-quart crates...High quality cultivated blueberries sell to better advantage in pint boxes when prices are high, although at the height of the season quarts sell quite readily. Wild blueberries and huckleberries are taken readily enough in quart boxes. The 24-quart crate is preferable for this fruit also..."

New Plywood A new kind of plywood is on the market. The layers of wood are put together with hot-pressed resin glues, making the wood waterproof so it can be used for forms in making concrete foundations, dairy barn walls, etc. (Farm Journal, April.)

Senate,
Mar. 23 Passed the following bills: S. 69, relating to the ap-
portionment of shares of the sugar crop for 1939 and 1940,
with amendments; H.J.Res. 150, to amend the joint resolution
providing for invitations to foreign governments to participate in the
Third International Congress for Microbiology, without amendment (this
bill will now be sent to the President); H.R. 3801, to extend the time
for retirement of cotton pool participation trust certificates, with amend-
ments.

Both Houses appointed conferees on H.R. 4425, reorganization bill.

Received a supplemental estimate of appropriation for administration
of the sugar^{act} of 1937, involving a new appropriation of \$5,000,000, plus
reappropriation of a 1938 unobligated balance of \$1,500,000, for the fis-
cal year 1939; to Com. on Appropriations (S.Doc. 44).

Mr. Gurney spoke in favor of an amendment which he intends to propose
to H.R. 3790, reciprocal tax bill, to make gasoline tax free when mixed
with alcohol from farm products.

Adjourned until Monday, March 27.

House,
Mar. 23 Began general debate on H.R. 5269, agricultural appro-
priation bill for 1940, which had been reported from the
Committee on Appropriations (H.Rept. 279). It was agreed
that the House meet at 11 o'clock March 24 and that general debate on the
bill continue for 3 hours.

The Committee on Rules reported without amendment H.Con.Res. 11, con-
tinuing the special Joint Committee on Forestry (H.Rept. 280).

Hearings: Com. on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, March 24; railroad
legislation, H.R. 2531.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

House,
Mar. 24 Debated the agricultural appropriation bill.
Agreed to an amendment by Mr. Pace requiring that
twine purchased by the Department be made from domestic
materials.

The following amendments were rejected without record votes:
by Mr. King, increasing Hawaii Experiment Station from \$55,000 to \$60,-
000; by Mr. Dimond, increasing Alaska Experiment Station from \$23,750
to \$25,000; by Mr. Iglesias, increasing extension work in Puerto Rico from
\$45,000 to \$88,000; by Mr. Leavy, providing \$250,000 additional under
Foreign Agricultural Service for work in Latin America; by Mr. Miller, in-
creasing airways weather service and research from \$3,334,095 to \$4,105,-
000; by Mr. Voorhis of Calif.; increasing fruit and vegetable crops and
diseases from \$1,328,982 to \$1,343,982; by Mr. Flannery, increasing forest
economics from \$121,295 to \$139,295; by Mr. Peterson of Fla., under agri-
cultural chemical investigations, increasing the amount for Citrus Products
Laboratory in Fla. from \$15,000 to \$19,000.

The following items were stricken from the bill on points of order:
by Mr. Ditter, Mexican fruitfly control; by Mr. Taber, citrus canker eradi-
cation.

The Senate was not in session.

DAILY DIGEST

prepared in the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture to present items of interest to agriculture and to agricultural workers. Views and opinions in these items are not necessarily approved by the Department.

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Section 1

March 28, 1939

SALARY TAX BILL

The Supreme Court yesterday cut away a century of precedent in a sweeping decision declaring salaries of federal employees subject to state taxation and removing immunity of state officials from federal income tax, says a report in the Washington Post. The 6-to-2 decision by Justice Stone cleared the way for reciprocal taxation of federal and state employees' incomes and rendered virtually unnecessary an administration bill for the same purpose. The salary tax bill, which already had passed the House and is now on the Senate calendar, is expected to be enacted, to protect affected salaries from retroactive taxation. Congressional experts estimated the yield from federal taxation of state incomes at approximately \$16,000,000 on the present tax structure, and believed state governments might collect at least that much on federal salaries.

SUPREME COURT TO PASS ON AAA

The Supreme Court agreed yesterday to pass upon the constitutionality of the agricultural marketing agreement act of 1937 and orders issued under the law by the Secretary of Agriculture, says an Associated Press report. The tribunal consented to review litigation from two Federal District Courts, one of which held the law unconstitutional and the other constitutional. Orders issued under the law regulated milk marketing in the New York and Boston areas. The cases were set for argument the week beginning Monday, April 24. The government appealed from a decision of the Northern New York Federal District Court which held that the operation of a milk marketing equalization fund was "confiscatory." Under the law milk handlers contribute to a settlement pool from which sums based upon the amounts of milk sold in various classifications are paid to producers.

SOCIOLOGY LECTURES

Lectures on social issues will be presented on ten consecutive Fridays by the Agriculture Department Graduate School, it was announced yesterday. Dr. Howard W. Odum, Director of the Institute for Research in Social Science, University of North Carolina, will deliver the first lecture Friday on "Facing Our Social Problems." The lectures will be given at 5 p.m. in the Department auditorium. Lecturers will be David Cushman Coyle, Dr. Dexter S. Kimball, Dr. Raymond Pearl, Dr. Frank H. Hankins, Dr. Michael M. Davis, Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes, Dr. Handley Cantril, Dr. Karl W. Bigelow and Dr. Hornell Hart. (Washington Post.)

Food Stamp Program Plans for distribution of surplus farm products through normal trade channels on an experimental basis provide for issuance of food stamps to needy persons receiving or certified for public aid. The stamps would be redeemable by the Government and acceptable in regular retail food stores for designated surplus commodities. They would be used to provide low-income families with food purchasing power in addition to their usual food purchases.

Part of the funds already available to the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation for surplus removal operations would be used to finance redemption of the surplus commodity stamps.

According to present plans, the experiment would be tried in a few representative cities of varying population, from 50,000 up, in widely separated areas. During the course of the experiment, the usual direct distribution by the FSCC through State relief agencies probably would be discontinued in the experimental cities. In the rest of the country, surplus purchases by the FSCC and distribution through State relief agencies will be continued.

The surplus food products distributed under the experimental plan would move from the producer to the consumer in the regular wholesale and retail trade channels.

There are three variations of the experimental plan, all of which are based on the same fundamental principles. Each is expected to be given a trial in one or more cities. The chief difference is in the method of getting the stamps into the hands of eligible families. According to present plans the stamps for purchasing surplus products would be blue.

One variation of the plan provides for issuing the blue stamps with orange stamps in the ratio of one blue stamp with two orange stamps. The orange stamps could be exchanged for any food, whether surplus or not. Eligible persons who made application would receive orange stamps, dollar-for-dollar, in lieu of a portion of their WPA wage or direct relief payment. They would be given the blue stamps.

The only purpose of issuing the orange stamps with the blue stamps would be to make sure that the blue stamps were not used to replace customary food purchases.

A second variation of the plan also provides for issuing orange stamps and blue stamps together. But, eligible persons would purchase the orange stamps for cash.

A third variation of the plan provides for issuing blue stamps only. The operation of this method would be studied to determine whether the use of orange stamps was necessary to prevent surplus purchases from replacing regular food purchases.

Food Stamp Program (continued)

For the two variations of the plan providing for orange stamps, the stamps would be issued in books in values ranging from \$4 to \$15. The books would also contain half as many blue stamps as orange stamps. The value of each blue stamp and each orange stamp would be 25 cents.

In order to guard against reduction in present cash expenditures for food, heads of families who elect to purchase orange stamps will be required to purchase at least one dollar's worth of stamps per week per person in the family. They would be permitted to purchase up to a maximum of about 50 percent more in orange stamps if the need existed. Under this system, families receiving stamps would be spending at least \$1 per person per week for food and, through use of the blue stamps distributed with the orange stamps, would be getting at least an additional 50 cents' worth of surplus commodities for each person.

Regulations governing the use of the stamps, tentatively agreed upon, are as follows:

The orange stamps could be exchanged for any kind of food, and for household necessities usually purchased in grocery stores, such as starch and soap, but could not be used to purchase beer, wine, liquor, or tobacco. The blue stamps would be good only for the purchase of commodities designated as surplus.

No books of stamps could be sold or transferred by the holder.

To be accepted, the stamps would have to be detached from the book at the time the purchase was made.

In order to assure current use of the stamps purchased, applicants would be required to turn in an empty book for each new book purchased, with the exception that the book for the period immediately preceding need not be turned in at the time of purchase.

In cities where orange stamps are sold to certified eligibles for cash, they will be available at relief agency headquarters.

In experimental cities where no orange stamps are issued, blue stamps will be issued to eligible families who agree to use them to supplement usual purchases.

Studies to determine the effect on nutrition and the demand for surplus farm products will be conducted in all cities in which the experimental plan is tried. Plans for the extension of the experimental program to other areas will depend upon the results achieved in the test cities.

Civil Service The Civil Service Commission announces the following
Examination examination: junior observer in meteorology, \$1,440,
No. 37, assembled, Weather Bureau. Applications must be
on file not later than the following dates: (a) April 17, if received
from states other than those named in b; (b) April 20, if received from
the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada,
New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

House, Continued debate on H.R. 5269, agricultural appropria-
Mar. 25 tion bill for 1940.

The following items were stricken from the bill on
points of order: gypsy browntail moth control; Dutch elm disease eradica-
tion; sweetpotato weevil control (this item was later restored to the bill
in amended form).

The following amendments were agreed to: by Mr. Caldwell, increasing
insects affecting man and animals from \$175,000 to \$181,500; by Mr. Gif-
ford, limiting the use of the migratory bird conservation fund, by a vote
of 91 to 72 (Mr. Cannon of Mo. later asserted that this amendment was in-
effective because it merely amended the title of an act cited in the item);
by Mr. Hendricks, increasing market news service from \$1,119,802 to \$1,-
122,302.

The following amendments were rejected: by Mr. Kleberg, increasing
pink bollworm control from \$446,800 to \$906,800, by a vote of 66 to 138;
by Mr. Rich, decreasing general administrative expenses (Biological Survey)
from \$118,000 to \$110,000; by Mr. August H. Andresen, prohibiting pur-
chase of agricultural or pasture land for wildlife refuges, by a vote of
107 to 122; by Mr. Taber, striking out economic investigations; by Mr.
Flannagan, increasing tobacco inspection act from \$375,000 to \$525,000,
by a vote of 40 to 85.

Points of order against the following items were overruled: by Mr.
Schafer of Wis., pink bollworm control; by Mr. Taber, economic investiga-
tions.

An amendment by Mr. Hull, to increase the percentage of tariff re-
ceipts which may be used in connection with surplus commodities from 30
to 60 percent was ruled out of order.

An amendment by Mr. Johnson of Okla. is pending, to decrease the
amount spent by Soil Conservation Service in the District of Columbia to
\$1,800,000.

The Committee on Rules reported without amendment H.Res. 130, to pro-
vide for an investigation of the Works Progress Administration (H.Rept.
312).

The Senate was not in session.

(Prepared by Office of Budget and Finance.)

Tractor Tires Tractor tires are now being made with a new type of
valve which speeds the process of putting in water bal-
last. Since the emptying job is simplified, too, the valve may do away,
in most cases, with the need of antifreeze solutions in tires. (Country
Home, April.)